



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2000

No. 124

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Reverend Claude Pomerleau, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon, offered the following prayer:

Lord and Master of the universe, we dare to call You Mother and Father because You are the Source of all that we are, all that we have and all that we do. You have sent us Your Spirit, and so we also call ourselves Your children. We know that You love us all, and that this gift goes beyond our greatest expectations.

O God, bless all the Members of the House this day and always. May they act in accordance with Your Spirit as they serve this Nation and work for a more peaceful and secure world. May they be just and compassionate in their work as You are just and compas-

sionate with Your creation, and may they be a sign of Your presence for this Nation and the world.

We pray that we may always be instruments of Your peace, even in the midst of unresolved problems and constant human conflicts. And, as a result, may we strive to be a mosaic of Your renewing presence in this world, through which we have a brief but glorious passage. Amen.

□

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2001, the subscription price of the Congressional Record will be \$393 per year or \$197 for six months. Individual issues may be purchased for \$4.00 per copy. The cost for the microfiche edition will remain \$141 per year with single copies remaining \$1.50 per issue. This price increase is necessary based upon the cost of printing and distribution.

Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H9013

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 267, nays 50, answered “present” 1, not voting 116, as follows:

[Roll No. 514]

YEAS—267

Abercrombie	Granger	Oxley
Allen	Green (TX)	Packard
Andrews	Green (WI)	Pallone
Baca	Greenwood	Pascrell
Bachus	Hall (OH)	Pastor
Baldwin	Hall (TX)	Payne
Ballenger	Hastert	Pease
Barcia	Hastings (WA)	Pelosi
Barr	Hayworth	Peterson (PA)
Barrett (NE)	Hill (IN)	Petri
Barrett (WI)	Hinojosa	Pickering
Bartlett	Hobson	Pickett
Bass	Hoeffel	Pitts
Becerra	Holden	Pomeroy
Bentsen	Hoolley	Portman
Bereuter	Horn	Price (NC)
Berkley	Hostettler	Pryce (OH)
Berry	Houghton	Rahall
Biggert	Hunter	Regula
Bishop	Hyde	Reynolds
Blagojevich	Inslee	Rivers
Bliley	Isakson	Roemer
Blunt	Istook	Rohrabacher
Boehner	Jackson (IL)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bonilla	Jackson-Lee	Rothman
Boswell	(TX)	Roukema
Boyd	Jefferson	Roybal-Allard
Brady (TX)	Jenkins	Royce
Brown (OH)	John	Ryan (WI)
Bryant	Johnson, E. B.	Ryun (KS)
Burr	Jones (NC)	Salmon
Buyer	Jones (OH)	Sandlin
Callahan	Kanjorski	Sanford
Camp	Kasich	Saxton
Campbell	Kelly	Scarborough
Capps	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Cardin	Kildee	Sensenbrenner
Chabot	Kilpatrick	Serrano
Chambliss	Kind (WI)	Sessions
Clayton	Kingston	Shadegg
Clement	Knollenberg	Shaw
Clyburn	Kolbe	Shays
Coble	Kuykendall	Sherman
Coburn	LaHood	Sherwood
Combest	Lampson	Shimkus
Condit	Lantos	Shows
Cook	Larson	Simpson
Cooksey	Latham	Sisisky
Cox	LaTourette	Skeen
Coyne	Lee	Skelton
Cramer	Levin	Smith (NJ)
Cunningham	Lewis (CA)	Smith (WA)
Danner	Lewis (KY)	Snyder
Davis (IL)	Linder	Spratt
Deal	Lofgren	Stearns
DeGette	Lucas (KY)	Stenholm
DeLauro	Lucas (OK)	Stump
DeMint	Luther	Sununu
Deutsch	Maloney (CT)	Talent
Dingell	Maloney (NY)	Tanner
Doggett	Manzullo	Tauscher
Dooley	Markey	Tauzin
Doyle	Mascara	Taylor (NC)
Dreier	Matsui	Terry
Duncan	McCarthy (NY)	Thornberry
Ehlers	McCrery	Thune
Emerson	McHugh	Thurman
Etheridge	McInnis	Tiahrt
Evans	McIntyre	Tierney
Everett	McKeon	Toomey
Ewing	Menendez	Towns
Farr	Mica	Traficant
Fattah	Miller, Gary	Turner
Fletcher	Minge	Upton
Forbes	Mink	Velazquez
Fowler	Moakley	Walden
Frank (MA)	Moore	Walsh
Frelinghuysen	Moran (VA)	Wamp
Frost	Morella	Watkins
Galleghy	Murtha	Watts (OK)
Ganske	Myrick	Weiner
Gejdenson	Nadler	Weldon (PA)
Gekas	Napolitano	Weygand
Gillmor	Nethercutt	Wilson
Gilman	Ney	Wolf
Gonzalez	Northup	Woolsey
Goode	Nussle	Wynn
Goodlatte	Olver	Young (FL)
Goodling	Ortiz	
Gordon	Ose	

NAYS—50

Aderholt	Hoekstra	Sabo
Baird	Holt	Sanchez
Baldacci	Hutchinson	Sawyer
Borski	Kucinich	Schaffer
Brady (PA)	LaFalce	Slaughter
Capuano	Lipinski	Stark
Costello	LoBiondo	Stupak
Crowley	McDermott	Sweeney
DeFazio	McNulty	Taylor (MS)
Dickey	Miller, George	Thompson (CA)
Gibbons	Moran (KS)	Thompson (MS)
Gutierrez	Neal	Udall (CO)
Gutknecht	Oberstar	Udall (NM)
Hastings (FL)	Obey	Visclosky
Hill (MT)	Phelps	Weller
Hilleary	Ramstad	Wu
Hilliard	Riley	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Smith (MI)

NOT VOTING—116

Ackerman	English	Millender-
Archer	Eshoo	McDonald
Armey	Filner	Miller (FL)
Baker	Foley	Mollohan
Barton	Ford	Norwood
Berman	Fossella	Owens
Bilbray	Franks (NJ)	Paul
Bilirakis	Gephardt	Peterson (MN)
Blumenauer	Gilchrest	Pombo
Boehlt	Goss	Porter
Bonior	Graham	Quinn
Bono	Hansen	Radanovich
Boucher	Hayes	Rangel
Brown (FL)	Hefley	Reyes
Burton	Herger	Rodriguez
Calvert	Hinchey	Rogan
Canady	Hoyer	Rogers
Cannon	Hulshof	Rush
Carson	Johnson (CT)	Sanders
Castle	Johnson, Sam	Scott
Chenoweth-Hage	Kaptur	Shuster
Clay	King (NY)	Smith (TX)
Collins	Klecza	Souder
Conyers	Klink	Spence
Crane	Largent	Stabenow
Cubin	Lazio	Strickland
Cummings	Leach	Tancredo
Davis (FL)	Lewis (GA)	Thomas
Davis (VA)	Lowe	Vento
Delahunt	Martinez	Vitter
DeLay	McCarthy (MO)	Waters
Diaz-Balart	McCollum	Watt (NC)
Dicks	McGovern	Waxman
Dixon	McIntosh	Weldon (FL)
Doolittle	McKinney	Wexler
Dunn	Meehan	Whitfield
Edwards	Meek (FL)	Wicker
Ehrlich	Meeks (NY)	Wise
Engel	Metcalfe	Young (AK)

□ 0931

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following vote:

On the Journal (rollcall No. 514), I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 514, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 514, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 514, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

□

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Will the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

□

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. One minutes will be postponed until the end of the day except for the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

□

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a very sad announcement. Congressman Sidney Yates died last night.

Those who loved the arts, who cherish the environment, who struggle for human freedom and dignity lost a hero. Many of us, many of you lost a very dear friend, a true gentleman in this body for 48 years.

There will be an opportunity at a later time for those who are moved to pay tribute to Sid to speak on this floor, and details about arrangements will be provided to all Members as soon as they are available.

□

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4475, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 612 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 612

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The Conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. House Resolutions 586, 592, 595, 599, and 600 are laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 612 is a standard conference report rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4475, the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2001.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Additionally, the rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule lays House Resolutions 586, 592, 595, 599, and 600 on the table.

Mr. Speaker, whether cross-town or cross-country, by car, train or plane, ensuring the safety and efficiency of our transportation networks is one of the Federal Government's highest responsibilities. The conference report accompanying H.R. 4475 continues the Republican Congress' focus on safety for all modes of transportation.

This bill improves and invests in the Nation's infrastructure and safety by targeting funds to critical programs such as air traffic control modernization, airport improvement grants, motor carrier safety, and increasing investments in highway safety research.

The bill enhances the safety and capacity of the aviation system and the highway and rail networks. It makes runway prevention systems and devices eligible for airport improvement funds and directs the FAA to make such requests for discretionary funding the highest priority. Under this bill, air traffic services continue to make up an integral part of aviation safety.

The bill provides a total of nearly \$17.8 billion in discretionary budget authority for our Nation's infrastructure and transportation safety, including the Federal Aviation Administration, transit program spending, the United States Coast Guard, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The bill includes \$279 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an increase of more than 50 percent from last year's levels, to improve the safety of the trucks of our Nation's roads. The underlying legislation also increases investments to critical highway safety research and development of smart vehicle technologies.

Another significant piece of the Transportation Appropriations is to fund the drug interdiction activities carried out by the U.S. Coast Guard. The bill provides for \$565 million for these activities, helping the men and women of the Coast Guard prevent addictive and deadly narcotics from ever reaching our shores, let alone our neighborhoods and school yards.

Additionally, the bill meets the funding obligations for the highway and aviation accounts, as prescribed under TEA-21 and AIR-21 reauthorization bills. These programs are critical to improvements and modernization of

our roadways and our airways, providing desperately needed funds across the Nation.

The bill also contains an increase in funding for pipeline safety, an increase of 25 percent over last year.

I am also pleased the underlying bill makes available a \$2 million continuing appropriation for the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority bus project, an important public transportation project that will serve my district and region. It also contains an additional appropriation for reverse commuting that will help those most in need to reach their jobs, wherever they may be, demonstrating our commitment to better, safer public transportation.

Similarly, the conference report provides much needed funding of \$2 million for the Niagara Falls Transportation Authority in the Buffalo area. Under this legislation, Western New York will be able to be better served with more reliable and safe bus transportation and improve job access and reverse commute efforts.

Mr. Speaker, safety should remain the Federal Government's highest responsibility in the transportation area, and clearly this bill addresses those needs and concerns.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member, for their hard work in bringing this measure before the House today. I would also like to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member, for their hard work and continued commitment to our Nation's infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, this rule will waive all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 4475. This is the bill that makes appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies in the year 2001.

Mr. Speaker, the bill funds much of the Nation's transportation infrastructure. It includes money for the construction, the maintenance, the operation of highways, airports, public transit systems and Amtrak. It also supports transportation safety and research for all modes.

The bill spends \$3.5 billion in discretionary spending, more than last year. This is an investment that will pay off in safer and more efficient transportation for most Americans.

The conference agreement sets a national standard for drunken driving. Drivers will be considered legally drunk if they have a blood alcohol level of 0.8. This standard will save lives and reduce traffic accidents.

I am also pleased with the bill because it includes funds for the Centennial of Flight Commission. This is a national commission helping to coordinate and promote the celebration of the centennial of the Wright Brothers' first flight. The anniversary will take place in the year 2003.

The bill also funds programs on the Department of Treasury, Executive Office of the President, General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Administration.

This will be the last House vote on the Transportation appropriations bill under the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) as chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) will be leaving this particular position of chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation in the next Congress.

And despite many of the tensions around here, the Transportation appropriations bill has emerged largely without partisanship. That is a tribute to the leadership and fairness of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO). I join my colleagues on both sides today in thanking the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for a job well done.

This is the way I think in the House of Representatives that we are to conduct our business, in a very good, very efficient, very bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) have any further speakers?

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have one speaker.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), who is the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, former chairman of the committee.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that this conference report demonstrates that people who too frequently promise regular order should be regarded in the same way that Blaze Starr regarded men who used the phrase "trust me."

The process by which this bill is being brought to the floor is truly amazing. The normal process, the legislative process is for both Houses to pass bills. Then we have a conference between the committees representing both Houses. They produce a document, and then each House has an opportunity to vote on that document.

If the Senate has adopted amendments out of the normal scope of the conference, then House Members are protected and authorizing committees

are protected by having the ability to have a vote on those amendments on the House floor.

Instead, this rule today takes the conference report on this bill, and instead of bringing it back as a conference report, it introduces as a new bill the conference report.

□ 0945

It then files a report that refers to that conference report. So to figure out what is in this bill, Members do not have to just go and look at the document accompanying this conference report, they have to go look at a second document. It is a two-step operation and it has two convenient results: Number one, it makes it just a little bit more difficult for the average rank-and-file Member to figure out what has been done in the conference; and, secondly, it guts our ability as an institution to deal with subject matters that individual Members, rather than a few power brokers in this House, feel that they ought to have an ability to comment on.

Now, this abuse on this bill would be far less disturbing if it were not part of a broad pattern of abuse of the legislative process which is having the effect of depriving the great majority of Members in this institution in both parties from having a real opportunity to play a meaningful role in the resolution of these issues.

One Member told me earlier this week that we are evolving into a system in which no more than 30 or 40 people have any meaningful input on the major decisions happening here, and nearly half of those people are staff. That is a sad reality. That means that well over 400 of the 435 Members of this institution are effectively cut out of the process, and that means 400 congressional districts, representing 200 million Americans, virtually have little league say, at best, in the decisions that are made here. And that simply is not fair.

In fact, one Member observed to me that, given the way this House has approached appropriation bills for the past year, most Members really do not have to show up in this place for real until October because the institution spends most of its time passing meaningless resolutions trying to nail the people on the other side of the aisle on controversial issues, or else we pass appropriation bills that have no relationship whatsoever to what is expected to finally be in those bills when they emerge as a final product. So we debate political press releases, unfortunately, instead of debating our real convictions on these bills, and that is a destruction of the process that needs to stop.

I would note that the reason that this is being done today is simply to get around Senate rules, because we are apparently afraid that an individual Senator on the majority side of the aisle is unhappy with the contents of this bill and wants to read the bill

on the floor. Now, the problem is that this House's rules are being destroyed in order for us to deal with the Senate rules as an institution, and the leadership of the House is making that worse.

In the Senate, major appropriation bills in the Senate, major appropriation bills involving half of the departments of the Federal Government, were never even taken to the Senate Floor. And we have gotten so far from the regular order that I fear that if this continues, the House will not have the capacity to return to the precedents and procedures of the House that have given true meaning to the term Representative Democracy. The reason that we have stuck to regular order as long as we have in this institution is to protect the rights of every Member to participate. And when we lose those rights, we lose the right to be called the greatest deliberative body left in the world.

Last night, for instance, we had, after 2 months of waiting to go to conference because the majority party leadership was trying to decide what the contents of the agriculture bill should be, after 2 months we finally went to conference, after we had a motion to instruct the committee to have a full-blown conference on the Agriculture bill, and we had a very meaningful debate in that conference. But even then, at the end of that conference, we had to have the majority members march up to the leadership offices to find out what their marching orders were for the rest of the conference.

Now, I just do not believe that we ought to be proceeding in this manner. And what I find ironic about this is that the very people in this institution and in the House leadership who cry the most about central government power in Washington, are the very same people who are day by day centralizing power in this institution. And that is not only wrong, it is dangerous. There needs to be a happy medium between power that lodges in the hands of individual Members, committees and the leadership.

I believe that this incredible centralization of decision-making in the hands of staff in the House leadership offices means that for most Members representing their districts in this body is diminishing every day in terms of their ability to have a say in what goes on around here. And that is the real problem with this rule.

I have problems with the underlying bill. I intend to vote against it, and I will explain why during the debate on that bill. But even more important to me is the increasing abuse of process. This House works best when we take advantage of the expertise that all Members have in each and every one of our committees. They bring that expertise to bear. It is leavened by the judgment of the leadership, which is a perfectly appropriate role.

But when we wind up having the judgment of the leadership come down

like a hammer and prevent committees from doing their work in an orderly manner, and then they prevent individual Members from having a say on nongermane Senate amendments, it reminds me of the fights we used to have when the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BROWN) and the Republican counterparts, when the Republicans were in the minority, used to raise "you know what" because all kinds of nongermane amendments were being offered in Senate and the authorizing committees had no way here to protect themselves. That is why we built in some of these rules and protections. Today they have been stripped away in the name of one word: Convenience. There ought to be a higher standard in this place.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to not disagree with my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY). This is not the normal procedure. But I do rise to tell the Members of the House that no Member of the House is disadvantaged by using this procedure.

The conference report on H.R. 4475, and the new bill that is numbered H.R. 5394, are identical. The language of the new bill has been available to the Members at the same time as the conference report on H.R. 4475 because it is printed in the statement of the managers. So no Member of the House has been disadvantaged.

As the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has pointed out, this was done to accommodate the other body. Whether that is the best procedure or not, it has been done before, but it is not really the regular order. The main issue here is Members of the House have not been disadvantaged by this procedure. The words in the copy of the bill in the statement of the managers on the conference report and the new bill are identical and they have been available to the House Members. Members are not disadvantaged because of timing and thus disadvantaged because of the language in the introduced bill.

So I think we ought to go ahead and pass this rule, and then I think we ought to go ahead and pass this conference report. As usual, as many Members often say, it is not perfect. There are things in there Members can be opposed to, but there are a lot of good things in there. This conference agreement provides for the highway needs and the transportation needs of the United States of America. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we ought to get on with business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against H. Res. 612, the rule on the conference report for H.R. 4475, the FY2001 Transportation Appropriations bill. Like many of my colleagues, I voted "no" to signal my frustration at the chaotic manner in which this bill was fashioned. I

would also like to take this opportunity to express an additional concern I had relating to the National Corridor Planning and Development Program.

First, let me thank the conferees for including significant investments for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system. I am pleased that the bill includes my \$70 million request for DART to construct the North Central Light Rail Extension. This funding fulfills the federal government's commitments under a full funding grant agreement reached between DART and the Federal Transit Administration in October, 1999, and will ensure that the North Central extension can proceed on schedule.

I would also like to thank the conferees for including \$2 million for DART to acquire new buses that will be used throughout the 13 member jurisdictions within DART's service territory.

I was extremely disappointed, however, that the conferees could not fund my \$12 million request for the I-35 Bridge under the National Corridor Planning and Development Program. In recognition of the increased trade and traffic that NAFTA would bring to Texas, I-35 was designated as a corridor under the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995. The I-35 Bridge project is necessary to alleviate the heavy local and trade-related traffic that now traverses the Dallas area. Although the conferees did include \$1.325 million for I-35 construction in the Waco, Texas area, I was disappointed that no funding was provided for the heavily congested part of I-35 that traverses Dallas.

Moreover, I am extremely concerned that the State of Texas has again been short-changed under the National Corridor Planning and Development Program. Under H.R. 4475, total earmarks for this program total approximately \$95 million. However, only \$5.675 million, or less than 6 percent, was targeted toward projects in Texas. Even more disturbing was that the bill provided funding for two individual projects that both individually exceed the total amount earmarked for Texas, and that these two projects are located in states that are not adjacent to Canada or Mexico.

The distribution provided in the National Corridor Planning and Development Program is fundamentally unfair to Texas. The corridor and border programs, authorized in TEA-21, were designed specifically to target assistance to nationally significant roadways that foster international trade and economic growth and that improve the flow of commerce at U.S. ports of entry. Texas has four nationally significant corridors, two of which (I-35 and I-10) carry almost 50 percent of all NAFTA trucks. Texas border crossings carry nearly 80 percent of international truck traffic, with 40 percent of this traveling through the state to other destinations in the U.S. and Canada. However, in the first two years of the programs, Texas has received only \$36 million out of approximately \$245 million, or less than 15 percent. By decreasing this meager amount to 6 percent, H.R. 4475 certainly goes in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely disappointed in this aspect of the Transportation Appropriations bill, and I now intend to redouble my efforts in this area so that future distributions to Texas will be more equitable.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 244, nays 136, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 515]

YEAS—244

Abercrombie	Ehlers	Lewis (CA)
Aderholt	Ehrlich	Lewis (KY)
Archer	Emerson	Linder
Armey	English	Lipinski
Bachus	Evans	LoBiondo
Balenger	Everett	Lucas (OK)
Barr	Ewing	Maloney (CT)
Barrett (NE)	Fletcher	Manzullo
Bartlett	Fossella	Markey
Barton	Fowler	Mascara
Bass	Frelinghuysen	McCrery
Bereuter	Galleghy	McHugh
Biggert	Ganske	McInnis
Bilbray	Gekas	McKeon
Bilirakis	Gibbons	McNulty
Bishop	Gillmor	Menendez
Blagojevich	Gilman	Mica
Bliley	Goode	Miller, Gary
Blunt	Goodlatte	Mink
Boehlert	Goodling	Moore
Boehner	Graham	Moran (KS)
Bonilla	Granger	Moran (VA)
Bono	Green (WI)	Morella
Brady (TX)	Greenwood	Murtha
Bryant	Gutknecht	Myrick
Burr	Hall (OH)	Nethercutt
Burton	Hall (TX)	Ney
Buyer	Hastings (WA)	Northrup
Callahan	Hayes	Norwood
Calvert	Hayworth	Nussle
Camp	Herger	Olver
Campbell	Hill (IN)	Ortiz
Canady	Hilleary	Ose
Cardin	Hobson	Oxley
Castle	Hoeffel	Packard
Chabot	Horn	Pascarella
Chambliss	Hostettler	Pease
Chenoweth-Hage	Houghton	Peterson (MN)
Clement	Hoyer	Peterson (PA)
Clyburn	Hulshof	Pickering
Coble	Hunter	Pickett
Collins	Hutchinson	Pitts
Combest	Hyde	Pombo
Cook	Inslee	Pomeroy
Cooksey	Isakson	Portman
Cox	Istook	Pryce (OH)
Coyne	Jenkins	Quinn
Cramer	Johnson (CT)	Quinn
Cubin	Johnson, Sam	Radanovich
Cunningham	Jones (NC)	Rahall
Danner	Kanjorski	Ramstad
Davis (FL)	Kaptur	Regula
Davis (IL)	Kasich	Reynolds
Davis (VA)	Kelly	Riley
Deal	Kingston	Rogan
DeFazio	Knollenberg	Rogers
DeLay	Kolbe	Rohrabacher
DeMint	Kuykendall	Ros-Lehtinen
Dickey	LaFalce	Roukema
Dooley	LaHood	Royce
Doolittle	Largent	Ryan (WI)
Doyle	Larson	Ryun (KS)
Dreier	Latham	Salmon
Duncan	LaTourette	Sanford
Dunn	Leach	Saxton
		Scarborough

Schaffer
Schakowsky
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Souder
Spratt
Stabenow

Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Talent
Tancredo
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter

Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—136

Allen	Hastings (FL)	Oberstar
Andrews	Hill (MT)	Obey
Baca	Hilliard	Owens
Baird	Hinchey	Pallone
Baldacci	Hinojosa	Pastor
Baldwin	Hoekstra	Payne
Barcia	Holden	Pelosi
Barrett (WI)	Holt	Petri
Becerra	Hooley	Phelps
Bentsen	Jackson (IL)	Price (NC)
Berkley	Jackson-Lee	Rivers
Berry	(TX)	Roemer
Bonior	Jefferson	Rothman
Borski	John	Roybal-Allard
Boswell	Johnson, E. B.	Sabo
Boyd	Jones (OH)	Sanchez
Brady (PA)	Kennedy	Sanders
Brown (FL)	Kildee	Sandlin
Brown (OH)	Kilpatrick	Sawyer
Capps	Kind (WI)	Scott
Capuano	Kleccka	Sensenbrenner
Clayton	Kucinich	Sherman
Coburn	Lampson	Slaughter
Condit	Lantos	Smith (WA)
Costello	Lee	Snyder
Crowley	Levin	Stark
DeGette	Lofgren	Stenholm
DeLauro	Lucas (KY)	Stupak
Deutsch	Luther	Sweeney
Dingell	Maloney (NY)	Tanner
Doggett	Matsui	Taylor (MS)
Edwards	McCarthy (MO)	Thompson (CA)
Etheridge	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Farr	McDermott	Thurman
Fattah	McGovern	Tierney
Filner	McIntyre	Towns
Forbes	Meehan	Turner
Ford	Millender	Udall (CO)
Frank (MA)	McDonald	Udall (NM)
Frost	Miller, George	Velazquez
Gejdenson	Minge	Vislosky
Gephardt	Moakley	Watt (NC)
Gonzalez	Mollohan	Weiner
Gordon	Nadler	Wexler
Green (TX)	Napolitano	Woolsey
Gutierrez	Neal	Wu

NOT VOTING—53

Ackerman	Franks (NJ)	Paul
Baker	Gilchrest	Porter
Berman	Goss	Rangel
Blumenauer	Hansen	Reyes
Boucher	Hefley	Rodriguez
Cannon	King (NY)	Rush
Carson	Klink	Shadegg
Clay	Lazio	Shows
Conyers	Lewis (GA)	Shuster
Crane	Lowe	Smith (TX)
Cummings	Martinez	Spence
Delahunt	McCollum	Strickland
Diaz-Balart	McIntosh	Vento
Dicks	McKinney	Waters
Dixon	Meek (FL)	Waxman
Engel	Meeks (NY)	Wise
Eshoo	Metcalf	Young (AK)
Foley	Miller (FL)	

□ 1015

Messrs. HILL of Montana, DOGGETT, ALLEN, PASTOR, WATT of North Carolina, MINGE, and Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. CLYBURN, McNULTY and OLVER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 515, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

□

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4475, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

□

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4475, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 612, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 612, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 5, 2000, at page H8922.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present today the conference report on the Department of Transportation and related agencies. In total, the bill provides \$17.8 billion in discretionary budget authority for critical operations of the Department of Transportation, an increase of \$3.5 billion over fiscal year 2000. Much of the increase over last year's level is attributed to mandated increases in the Federal Aviation Administration as a result of the enactment of AIR21. In addition, the increase over last year is a result of additional operational requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Allow me to mention a couple of highlights:

\$4.5 billion for the Coast Guard, of which \$565 million is for drug interdiction;

\$12 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration, a 25 percent increase over last year, consistent with the requirements of AIR21, of which \$3.2 billion is for airport improvement programs;

\$30 billion for the federal-aid highways program, an increase of almost \$2 billion over last year and consistent with TEA21;

\$720 million for the emergency relief highway program to fund the backlog of overdue bills to restore highways damaged in previous natural disasters;

\$6.3 billion for transit program spending, an increase of \$486 million;

\$279 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, more than double last year, to improve truck safety on our Nation's roads;

\$404 million for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an increase of nearly 10 percent, again safety;

\$725 million for the Federal Railroad Administration, of which \$521 million is for Amtrak;

\$47 million for pipeline safety, which is an increase of over 25 percent.

In addition, the conference agreement contains several items that have been of deep interest to a lot of Members. The agreement before the body contains the following resolutions on rollover, hours-of-service, and .08.

First, on rollover, the agreement permits the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to move forward with its rollover testing proposal while the National Academy of Sciences studies static versus dynamic testing. Once the study is completed, the administration must propose any appropriate revisions to their testing procedures.

Second, the agreement permits the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to collect and analyze public comments and data on its proposed hours-of-service rule-making during fiscal year 2001. The administration may also issue a supplemental notice of proposed rule-making once this analysis is complete. However, the agreement prohibits the Federal Motor Carrier Administration from taking any final action on the proposed rule during the year 2001. However, a lot of Members in this body and on the committee will be watching to see the Motor Carrier move ahead, because over 5,000 people a year are killed with regard to trucks every year and a number because of tired truck drivers.

Third, the agreement modifies the Senate provision on .08 but still adopts a national standard for drunk driving. This new provision requires all States to adopt a blood alcohol level of .08 by fiscal year 2004. If States do not adopt this standard, they will lose a portion of their highway funds each year, 2 percent in the year 2004, 4 percent in 2005, 6 percent in 2006, and 8 percent in 2007. However, the highway funding would be restored if a State moves to the lower standard by the end of the year 2007. This is basically in honor and in memory of the moms and dads who have lost loved ones on the road because by doing this, we will save four to 500 lives every year. It is my understanding that the Department of Transportation and the White House

supports all three of these compromises.

Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement also includes a provision relating to the Central Artery project. This provision is the culmination of 6 years of review and scrutiny by this committee and the Department of Transportation's Inspector General on the project. The Central Artery/Tunnel project in Boston, first estimated to cost \$2.5 billion in fiscal year 1985, is now estimated to top \$13.1 billion. This provision contained in the conference agreement codifies a recent agreement with Massachusetts officials and the Federal Highway Administration which limits Federal financial participation in the project to \$8.5 billion, and sets forward other terms and conditions, including the requirement that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts undertake a balanced statewide construction program of \$400 million a year.

Mr. Speaker, this provision is not meant to impugn the administration of, or the recent actions by, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. In fact, over the last recent months, the new administration has been forthcoming with details of the cost overruns and the cost to complete the project, something that previous MTA officials withheld from Federal officials. This provision is not to prejudice the current administration of the MTA but rather to ensure that the Federal Highway Administration and the Secretary of Transportation fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities to the American taxpayer.

This conference agreement is a good bill, it is balanced, and it is a bill which will clearly, whether it be on the rollover, whether it be on the .08, whether it be on the trucks and the others and the Coast Guard will save lives. Seldom do we get an opportunity to vote for something that we clearly know will save so many lives. It deserves, hopefully, the body's support. It is my understanding the administration has no serious objections to the bill and will sign it.

Before I close, I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member, and the other members of the subcommittee for the bipartisan spirit which they have shown in helping us to reach an agreement on these issues. This has never been a partisan bill, and I am pleased that this tradition continues. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) have been most gracious and willing to reach compromises needed to move this bill forward to the President.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), our full committee chairman who has done such an outstanding job, has always ensured that this subcommittee's allocation is ample to accommodate the needs of this subcommittee. With that spirit, I think we have a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also take a moment to express my deepest

appreciation for the fine work done by the professional staff on the transportation appropriations subcommittee, including John Blazey, Stephanie Gupta, Rich Efford, Linda Muir, Cheryl Smith and the detailee from the Department of Transportation, Chris Porter.

These professionals have been instrumental in bringing together this important bill. They epitomize, and I speak really for staff people on all the committees, the countless committee staffers who work long hours on Capitol Hill with little or many times no recognition. Now, thanks to their efforts, we are sending a bill to the President that will improve the lives of all Americans by helping to ensure that they not only can go where they want to go but can get there safely.

Stephanie Gupta worked tirelessly to include the .08 standard which will make certain that our sons and daughters and moms and dads can return home safely at night. Her perseverance on this issue, in the face of incredible odds, was crucial in the inclusion of .08. Again, 500 lives.

Additionally, Rich Efford diligently worked to guarantee that the FAA was giving adequate attention to the problem of runway incursions and other safety issues that are so important to Members on both sides of this issue. Rich sacrificed time with his own family for the purpose of making sure that air travel is safer for all of our families.

And Linda Muir is the glue that holds it all together in the subcommittee office. Her organizational skills and good humor have made all of our jobs a lot easier.

Cheryl Smith, from the minority side, is a true professional whose knowledge and experience were valuable assets to the committee's work.

I also want to thank Geoff Gleason from my staff for the committee who for 2 decades, first working with Mr. Solomon and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) and now in my office has been invaluable in our work with our colleagues in bringing this legislation up.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff director, John Blazey, who oversaw the hundreds, and I would say thousands of projects in this bill and is one of the finest professionals on Capitol Hill. I was a staffer on Capitol Hill for a number of years before I had the opportunity to serve and watching John, I can tell you, he is a tribute to the staff that does such a good job on both sides of the aisle. Through his guidance and leadership, we have brought forth an excellent bill which tackles many of the concerns at the heart of transportation in America.

□ 1030

John Blazey knows more about these issues perhaps than anyone else certainly in the Congress, and maybe in the country. I know he will be an asset to the new Bush Administration when they take over in January of next year.

As this will be my last year as chairman of this transportation appropriations bill, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff, to the Members on both sides, to the leadership and to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for helping.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SABO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, let me first share the kind words of the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF for our staff, all the staff he mentioned, along with Marjorie Duske of my staff. They do outstanding work. This is a big and complicated bill to put together, and they do an outstanding job. We owe them our heartfelt thanks for the hours and hours of work they put in producing this bill. They are competent, they are professional, they are fair, and my thanks go to all the staff that works on this bill.

As the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) indicated, this is his last year chairing the Subcommittee on Transportation. I have had the opportunity over the last 4 years to serve as the ranking member on this subcommittee and as a member for the entire 6 years that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has chaired the subcommittee. The gentleman has done an outstanding job. He is professional, he is tough, he is fair, and he knows what he is doing, and he works hard. I expect on many issues we come from differing points on view, on many issues that come before this Congress, but in terms of working on this subcommittee, I have always found the gentleman to be totally open, to be fair in dealing with the members of the minority. His commitment to the transportation system in this country, in particular to safety issues, the transportation system is better because of his efforts; but in particular I have to say that his constant attention to safety issues has been simply outstanding.

I would say to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), this House and the whole country owes the gentleman a big thank you for 6 years of an outstanding job.

On the bill itself, it is a good bill. I intend to vote for it. I am not going to go through the same detail the Chairman did. Everything the gentleman said is accurate. It is a bill that will make substantial improvement to the transportation systems of this country.

I agree with most everything in the bill, but let me just briefly mention one issue where the Chair and I disagree. He is on the winning side; I am on the losing side. But in the context of our Federal system in this country, there are certain things that the Federal Government has responsibilities for; there are other things that State government has responsibility. Clearly one area where the States have pre-

eminence is creating and enforcing the traffic laws of our country.

One of the most difficult issues for States to deal with is to establish the framework for dealing with drunk drivers. That involves their responsibility not only for creating law, but creating a court system to deal with it, creating the enforcement mechanisms, creating and spending the money for penalties and creating and spending the money for treatment.

There are many components that go into a State having a rational and strong drunk driving law. In my judgment, it is a serious mistake for the Federal Government to move in on one component of a complex and difficult problem and say to the States, you do what we think is right, or we will take your highway money away, or a portion of your highway money away.

It is the type of thing we do too frequently in this institution, not with careful thought, but simply because somebody at some point thinks it is a good idea. We add it as a rider to a bill, and the States have to comply.

It may or may not be the right thing to do. It may vary from State to State. What I am certain of, however, is that setting the blood alcohol content level is only one small part of establishing a comprehensive drunk driving policy for a State; and for us to insert our judgment on simply this one issue, and leaving the States with all the complexity of other things to deal with, to me represents the arrogance at times that we carry in the Federal Government as it relates to State and local government in this country. So I strongly oppose what we are doing on this particular provision.

Nonetheless, I intend to vote for the total bill, because, overall, it is a very good bill for transportation and safety in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss those provisions of this conference agreement which come under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. These provisions are ones that we hope will allow the conference report, which has been over in the Senate and, unfortunately, has not been successful in passage, to allow that to be brought up again and finally passed. We believe that these represent the final compromises and agreements on the Treasury-Postal legislation, and those changes are incorporated into this bill.

The provisions include more funding for the IRS, and they are items that the administration has indicated that

they need to have in order to fully support the fiscal year 2001 conference report that we passed on September 14.

The conference report includes an additional \$348 million for the programs of the Department of Treasury, the Executive Office of the President, the National Archives, and the General Services Administration. When combined with the amounts that are in H.R. 4985, the fiscal year 2001 conference agreement, it provides \$15.9 billion for agencies under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. That is an increase of \$2.3 billion from fiscal year 2000, or 16.4 percent.

Included in the amount under consideration in the conference report pending before us now are these, among others: \$37.2 million for Treasury-wide efforts to combat terrorism, that is an increase; an increase of \$215 million for the IRS, including \$71.8 million for ongoing efforts related to information systems modernization, \$141 million to support ongoing reform efforts, including staff for customer service and audits, and \$3.1 million for money laundering; an additional \$16.6 million for the Customs Service, to enhance both infrastructure and staffing along the northern border, specifically to counter terrorist threats in that area; an additional \$30 million to establish and operate a metropolitan area law enforcement training center for the Department of Treasury, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and other Federal agencies; \$5 million for the enhanced operation of the Office of National Drug Control's Technology Transfer Program; and \$2.5 million as a transfer to the Elections Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for objective nonpartisan citizens education for choice by voters on the island's future status.

Let me just say a few words about this latter item, because it proved to be one of the more contentious ones. It is money that is provided for the Puerto Rico referendum on statehood or independence. After many long hours of numerous variations on a theme, we were able to secure a compromise with the administration on the use of these funds.

The funds are provided with the following conditions: they are not available until March 31, 2001; the funds may not be used by the Elections Commission until 45 days after the commission submits to the Committees on Appropriations an expenditure plan developed jointly by the Popular Democratic Party, the New Progressive Party, and the Puerto Rico Independence Party; and the expenditure plan must be approved by the Committees on Appropriations prior to any funds being spent.

I want to pay special tribute to my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). This has been a difficult bill, to negotiate the final agreements. He and his staff have worked

extremely hard with us, and I believe what we have achieved is good legislation.

I want to thank the staff of my subcommittee, led by the clerk, Michelle Mrdeza, Jeff Ashford, Kurt Dodd, Tammy Hughes, our detailee, Doug Burke, Kevin Messner from any own staff, and, of course, on the other side, Pat Schlueter and Scott Nance, who have played key roles in getting this legislation to where we are today.

I believe we have legislation that can be supported, and I hope that Members will support it.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), ranking member of the full Committee on Appropriations and a member of the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to vote for this bill. I think in many ways it is a good bill. This subcommittee is run by a very classy guy. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has been a very good chairman for this subcommittee, and I think everybody in this institution knows it. And the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) is one of the classiest people who has ever been in this institution, and he has done a fine job as well. But I am going to vote against it, and I want to explain why.

I do not need any lectures from anybody about the dangers of drunk driving. When I was in junior high school, I was knocked off my bicycle by a truck driver who had spent 4 hours in a tavern rather than doing what he was supposed to be doing that day. My grandfather was killed in an accident involving drunk driving. So I have had experience with drunk drivers.

But I have also had experience with seeing people killed or maimed because of bad highways. I used to live on a two-lane highway, Highway 29, in Marathon County, Wisconsin. A car was demolished simply pulling into our driveway because it was a badly engineered road. If that highway had been modernized, those people would not have been mangled. The problem with this bill is that it sacrifices highway safety in one area because of concern in another area, and I think that is wrong.

Now, I do not know what the proper blood alcohol level ought to be, but I do know that if the Federal Government is going to penalize States by taking away highway money that they need to modernize dangerous roads, that then States ought to be judged on the whole array of their laws involving drunk driving, and not just one piece.

I want to give some examples. This proposal originated with a Senator from New Jersey. I want to compare my State's record to New Jersey's.

Virginia has often been cited as a reason why we should lower the blood alcohol level. But I want to point out, Wisconsin, my State, has a prohibition on open containers containing alcohol in motor vehicles; Virginia does not.

On blood alcohol testing, Wisconsin has mandatory testing of all drivers after an accident; New Jersey and Virginia do not.

Wisconsin requires mandatory early assessment of drunk drivers to determine alcohol dependency; and it requires treatment, if needed. Virginia and New Jersey do not have those requirements.

In Wisconsin, the Department of Motor Vehicles can revoke a license for drunk driving; in New Jersey, only a court can revoke a license for drunk driving, and that takes much longer.

In Wisconsin, if you compare the traffic fatality rate between 1975 and 1997, Wisconsin's has improved by 61 percent; New Jersey's has improved by only 45 percent.

Yet Wisconsin is being penalized. It is going to lose money because it does not have a .08 alcohol level, and New Jersey happens to have it.

The most significant reason that Wisconsin has been able to attack successfully drunk driving is because we have an initiative under which we have a broad-based county-by-county supervision program that oversees drunk drivers in all aspects of their lives.

□ 1045

And that has dramatically reduced recidivism. And according to the National Highway Safety Administration, which authorized a study of this, if you have a program like we have, you are 12 times less likely to engage in drunk driving than you are if you do not have that kind of a program.

Mr. Speaker, my objection is very simply this: All of us as human beings want to be judged on the basis of our entire conduct, not on the basis of any one little imperfection that someone happens to see. The same should be true of States. We should not take away precious highway aids from States who have done a far better job overall in dealing with the drunk driving issue, just because they happen to not meet somebody's standard of perfection on one narrow item, and that is why the National Governor's Association, The League of Cities, AAA, the Conference of State Legislatures and the International Association of Chiefs of Police all oppose this narrow approach to this problem.

I am going to vote against this in protest to the way Congress has looked only at one narrow issue, rather than the whole range of issues in determining what a State's level of highway aid ought to be. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) for yielding me the time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the full committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation for yielding the time to me, and I want to compliment him for working through a difficult conference and producing what I think is a really fine bill.

It meets the needs of America. There are more needs that need to be met, but this bill goes right directly to the heart of some of the hot transportation problems, whether it is surface transportation or whether it is air transportation.

Are there negatives? Are there things you could look for to be against? Of course. In any bill that comes before this House, if my colleagues want to find something to be against, they can find something to be against. There are 435 of us here. I would suspect that there are a lot more than 3 or 4 ideas or positions on any issue.

But I want to specifically compliment the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) mentioned our staff, John Blazey, Rich Efford, Stephanie Gupta and the other members of the staff. These people are professionals. They know what the needs are, and they do the best they can to give us advice so that we can utilize the money available to meet those needs.

I wanted to talk specifically for just a few minutes today about the United States Coast Guard. There are many who believe that the United States Coast Guard, because they are a uniform service, because they carry guns, because they enforce laws, because they go to war when America goes to war or to deployment, as they did in Kosovo or as they did in Bosnia, they are part of the national defense system and get funded through the Defense appropriations bill. That is not the case.

The United States Coast Guard is funded in this bill on transportation. I represent a county in Florida where we are very fortunate to have three Coast Guard stations in that county, Pinellas County, Florida. We have the major Coast Guard air station for the entire system.

We also have a major sea station, and we have a fast boat station for quick access to the Gulf of Mexico to take care of close in problems with people that are boating or fishing or whatever and need the service of the Coast Guard. But the Coast Guard is called upon to be deployed 365 days a year; and for years, the Coast Guard had to squeeze their budget, really squeeze to get by, to keep their operational activities going.

I would like to say to the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF), I thank him so much. In this bill, the gentleman has really met the needs of the United States Coast Guard. I believe that Commandant Loy, who is an outstanding leader, would say to the gentleman, as he has to me, and he probably has to the gentleman, that this bill really makes them feel comfortable.

If my colleagues want to not vote for this bill for any reason like they did not get a new bridge in their districts, or did not get some new highway

money, or did not get some aviation assets in this bill, think of the United States Coast Guard. They not only protect our coast and our harbors, but they risk their own lives in search and rescue missions, where they go into weather situations that other people are running from to save lives and to save property.

In the interdiction of drugs, the United States Coast Guard has an outstanding record. These are the drugs that are trying to be brought into the United States to seriously affect people of this great country, and the Coast Guard just does a great job of preventing this. As I said, they are deployed every day. They risk their lives every day.

And I say to the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member and to the staff of this subcommittee, I just want to say as one Member who has a personal experience with the Coast Guard, my colleagues have done a good job for the United States Coast Guard.

I thank my colleagues for that. I appreciate that, and I will enthusiastically support this bill.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) for yielding me the time, and I rise in support of this conference report and particularly to discuss the component of this conference report which deals with the Treasury Postal bill, of which I have the honor of being the ranking member and working with the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE).

As the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) indicated in his opening remarks, this has been a difficult bill and difficult for us to come to agreement between ourselves and with the administration, but I believe we have done so.

I believe we have done so in a very responsible fashion, which provides for an additional sum for the IRS, which is critical for the agency to meet the mandates of the Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. I think there is agreement on that between the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) and myself in our subcommittee.

Without this funding, a successful completion of the 2001 filing season would quite possibly have been at risk. Customer service would have been reduced and audit coverage could have continued to decline. In addition, this legislation continues the modernization of the IRS by upgrading its computer systems and business practices.

All of that was critically important to do, and I am pleased that we are adding a sum sufficient to accomplish those objectives in this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, it also includes more than \$37 million in funding to counter terrorist threats along our northern border, enhances the Federal Government's joint terrorism task force, and to establish a new national terrorist asset tracking center, which was very important to the administration. They had asked for \$50 million. They did not get all \$50 million but they got about \$38 million, and that was a significant step forward in countering terrorism.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the conference for including sums, and this is the transportation conference, so that we might complete the reconstruction of the Wilson Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this conference report, both because the transportation side of it is good, and I think the Treasury Postal side is a very good step forward.

I want to join in the remarks of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation, with reference to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF). FRANK WOLF is a good friend of mine. He is a man of great character, intellect and deep integrity.

He is a fine Member of this body, and he has, as the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) indicated, led this committee for 6 years, in a very, very bipartisan and substantive way. And I join the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) in his complimentary remarks about the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), who is such an important Member of the Washington metropolitan delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, and thank, as he did, the staff: my own staff, Pat Schlueter and Scott Nance who worked very hard on this bill. I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) for his words about them, and then Michelle Mrdeza who is our staff director. She does an extraordinary job trying to keep all the component parts of our bill together.

It has been a very difficult year for her, because, as all of my colleagues know, we have had some problems on the Senate side passing the bill. I also want to thank Jeff Ashford, Kurt Dodd, Doug Burke, and Tammy Hughes for their work on this bill.

As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) said and as the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) said and as the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) said, we cannot do this work without very conscientiousness, very able, very hard-working staff; and although this has been a difficult process, they have stayed with it, and their effort was a critical component of our success.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I will support the conference report, which includes the additions which I think will make the Treasury Postal bill a signable bill by the President.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for shepherding a very, very complex bill through a very complicated legislative process.

Most of all, I also want to thank the regional delegation for working together in a bipartisan manner, and the administration and my House leadership for the inclusion of the \$600 million for the Woodrow Wilson bridge. This is a major artery along the North-South expressway. It is in danger of falling into the Potomac River if a new bridge is not completed. This will complete the \$1.5 billion Federal obligation and just my thanks to all concerned.

Finally, to my colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), I thank him for his leadership in the last 6 years of this subcommittee. It has meant a lot to this region. It has meant a lot to this country, and it has been just a pleasure to serve with the gentleman in this capacity and the value the gentleman has added to our region, I think is second to anything anybody has ever done. The gentleman has made a huge difference.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friend from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and say we see a lot of partisanship, but one of the positive things for me in this Congress is working with the Washington metropolitan delegation which is very bipartisan. It is almost half and half in terms of its makeup, and we work very well together. This was a great success for our region and for our country. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and certainly the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and our four Senators who worked so hard on reaching this objective. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding to me.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). It has been a pleasure working with the gentleman, and I also thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) as well.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to vote for this legislation. I want, first, to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), our ranking member, and the majority and minority staff, John Blazey for the majority and Cheryl SMITH for the minority staff, for the work that they have done; and it is a very fine piece of work on what is a bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want particularly to thank the chair and the ranking member and the majority and minority staff for working with me and the

other Members of the Massachusetts delegation to repair the necessary working relationship between the Federal Highway Administration and the Massachusetts Highway Administration, making certain that my State would continue to have or could depend upon a balanced construction program during the final years of the construction of what is the largest and most complex construction project in the history of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay tribute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the chairman, who will move on to some other subcommittee or some other ranking chairmanship position in the next Congress. I want to commend him for what has been the hallmarks of his tenure as chairman which, in my mind, clearly has been both fairness and safety.

□ 1100

Throughout his years he has focused on the safety of the traveling public, whether it was rail, whether it was air travel, whether it was highway travel. In that, I want to commend him for his persistence in his advocacy of what I believe is a carefully and judiciously crafted phase-in of the .08 blood alcohol content requirement.

Remember, here, no one loses any dollars for at least 6 years. I do not in any way doubt that the blood alcohol content provision can be viewed as only one part of a comprehensive program in dealing with driving under the influence. But if adopted, if adhered to, if enforced, this provision can save 500 lives every year, and in so doing, save hundreds and probably thousands of families from the grief of loss that occurs when there is a senseless DUI accident. I commend the chairman for his persistence in his work on that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, 2 decades ago I had the privilege of being first elected to serve here in the Congress, and one of the greatest members of that class in 1980 was the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), who, as has been pointed out by virtually everyone here, has served extraordinarily well as chairman over the past 6 years of this very important subcommittee.

I listen to my colleagues who are proud to represent this Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and yet I have to say that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has also done an awful lot to help us deal with one of the most pressing problems that we have in my State, especially in the southern part of the State which I am privileged to represent, and that is transportation.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) just mentioned the focus

on safety, and that, obviously, is a high priority. I want to praise the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for focusing on air traffic safety, which is obviously a very important issue, near and dear to virtually all of us who live outside of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area who travel by air regularly.

Of course, for those of us who suffered through the horrible delays this past summer, we want to bring about some kind of resolution to ensure that that kind of thing does not, as many have predicted, get worse.

Let me talk briefly about just four specific Southern California priorities that we have.

First and foremost, for years we have worked together to deal with the challenges that have confronted the Metropolitan Transit Authority in Los Angeles. Dealing with the construction there has been difficult, but the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has regularly been understanding of the very important needs that we have faced there, and the fact that in Southern California, Los Angeles was the largest city on the face of the Earth without a mass transit system. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has helped us as we have moved ahead to try and address that need.

Specifically, in the area that I represent, there are three particular priorities that we have. That is, number one, when we look at the fact that we live in a global economy, international trade is very, very important for our survival. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are going to be providing an opportunity to expand trade in both directions, to the Pacific Rim and other parts of the world.

A project known as the Alameda Corridor was established to make sure that goods could get to and from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles in the Los Angeles area to downtown.

One of the things that we had to realize, though, and it did not come to our attention until a few years ago, is that once things got to downtown Los Angeles, they had to get to the rest of the Nation. So we established a priority known as the Alameda Corridor East so on the east side of Los Angeles, going to the rest of the country, we could deal with grade separations and other problems that existed there that would jeopardize the ability of goods to move in both directions. So there is very important funding here for the Alameda Corridor East, which is important.

The other priority we have in our area, which is a very, very important one and with a great partnership, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) knows between the local communities, the private sector, and the Federal Government, has been something known as Foothill Transit. It has had wonderful success.

Again, I believe, as I have testified before, the subcommittee of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) should be a model for the rest of the

country of how we can see disparate levels of government come together, along with the private sector, to proceed with meeting this very, very important need.

Then there is one little item, we in Southern California you may recall suffered fires and ensuing rains which caused mudslides. We have a very important road known as Chantry Flats, which has been wiped out because of those storms. I am very appreciative of the fact that we are going to be able to have the resources in to make sure that we construct that and get it back on track.

So let me just say that along with the priorities that have been outlined by so many, the Coast Guard, which the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) talked about, very important to California, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is part of that important Maryland, Virginia, and metropolitan Washington D.C. area.

His interest in dealing with national concerns, even those 3,000 miles away, has not gone unnoticed; and I greatly appreciate the time and effort he has put in to addressing our needs.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the authorizing committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I join gladly in the praise of the retiring chairman, retiring from the chairmanship, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), for his steadfast advocacy for safety in transportation, which has been very effective and has indeed made our Nation's transportation systems safer.

This may indeed be a good bill, but the manager's report does not measure up to that standard. It includes a listing of 162 airport projects which the managers would like to see funded out of FAA discretionary funds.

In the past, to be sure, there have been listings of projects for specific airports, but without specific dollar amounts and with less prescriptive language, and far fewer projects, only a handful compared to the 162 listed in this manager's report, or in excess of \$300 million.

I know that gold rush did not start in this body, it started with the other body. I would like to clarify the legal situation on these projects.

The law governing aviation discretionary funds requires the FAA to establish, and they have established for decades, a priority system to decide which projects will get these very limited funds. The highest priority goes to projects that will bring airports into compliance with safety standards. Next are projects that allow the airport to accommodate large aircraft. The next is standards, standards that continue with other forms of development in aviation.

Many of the projects listed in this manager's report, I concede, are of sufficient quality in and of themselves, as we have analyzed them, to qualify for funding under these established FAA standards in the regular order. But what I want to point out is that aviation is not like highways. An improvement to a highway project in Boston does not necessarily benefit California, but in the national system of integrated airports, an improvement in one airport, a major hub airport, means potentially a vast improvement for all of aviation.

The FAA should have and does have discretion to fund improvements to increase capacity, to improve safety, to reduce bottlenecks. If next year we have the same kind of delays and problems in aviation that we have had this year and last year, travelers might not feel so comfortable traveling in an aviation system designed by Congress.

I want to make it clear that the language in a report cannot override a priority system established under the governing law. I would like to quote from the decision of the Comptroller General that was found in a report expressing congressional preference.

The Comptroller General found that Congress cannot require the Navy to select a particular aircraft the language in the committee report wanted the Navy to require and to abandon normal procurement procedures.

The Comptroller General wrote: "It is our view that when Congress merely appropriates lump sum amounts without statutorily restricting what can be done with those funds, a clear inference arises that it does not intend to impose legally binding restrictions, and indicia in committee reports and other legislative history as to how the funds should be or are expected to be spent do not establish any legal requirements on Federal agencies."

Accordingly, I believe it is incumbent on FAA to continue to use its priority system to award discretionary funds and assure that those funds will be directed to the greatest safety benefit and not to the specific, narrowly drawn, targeted little projects listed in this manager's report.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation for many years, I steadfastly resisted designating projects in our authorizing bill and have continued, as ranking member of the full committee, to resist such designation. It should not be done in a manager's report of appropriations.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), for all his hard work, I thank him very much. As a new member on the subcommittee, I do appreciate the gentleman's diligence, his sincerity, as well as his equal handling of us as we

worked together in a bipartisan way on this committee, and thanks to Mr. John Blazey and his staff for all the work they have done in working with us.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) for his style, grace, and hard work as he works together with all of us to make sure that our transportation needs are met on our side of the aisle; and to Cheryl Smith on the staff, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the transportation bill that we have before us. It is a good bill, but it is not a perfect bill, as many things are not in the world that we live in today.

The bill is good, and I want to make a special point to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for working with Michigan on our transit concerns. We do have a problem in Michigan, and it is a long problem. I hope as this Congress moves forward in the 107th Congress that we will address that problem.

Our State Department of Transportation must not work around the appropriations process, must not overlook the Members on both sides of the aisle, and must work with us as members of appropriations, both the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and myself, who represent our State and our entire State delegation.

I thank the staff for their work with us to make sure that all the Members' concerns are addressed. I pledge that I will continue to do that with the Members, and will hope our State Department of Transportation will do the same, and not try to usurp our appropriations authority.

I want to speak briefly on the .08 blood alcohol level. I think it is wonderful and it will save at least 500 lives, as has been mentioned, but we can do more, and not just on this issue, by having further, stronger laws that will save more American lives. The .08 by itself, it will save some, but I think we can do better. We can enforce open container laws. We can have administrators revoking licenses and not waiting for a judicial decision. We can also have mandatory blood testing after accidents to encourage people not to drink. I think all of that must work together if in fact we are going to really address drunk driving in our country. It is a problem. This may be a first step, but we need to do more.

The chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) our ranking member, I thank them for their time, for their insistence that we bring a bill that provides safety for our American citizens and also addresses the nation's highway needs.

Transit in America is still important. Many people in America do not drive cars, so our highways have to be safe, our transit systems have to be adequate, and we have to continue to work together.

I rise in support of the conference report. The process is a little less than

what is desired, but I am happy that we have reached this point. I urge my colleagues to vote for the transportation conference report.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

□ 1115

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the fiscal year 2001 Transportation appropriations conference report. Not only does this legislation continue our critical investment in our Nation's infrastructure, it also appropriates \$5 billion to pay down the national debt.

This legislation is consistent with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. It provides an increase of almost 7 percent in Federal aid highway spending. Outlays, mostly needed for transportation infrastructure, are up 13.3 percent.

The conference agreement also includes \$720 million for emergency relief for highways to cover the cost of highway repairs resulting from previous disasters. In short, this legislation addresses our Nation's transportation needs.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to serve on the Subcommittee on Transportation of the Committee on Appropriations, and I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) for the outstanding job that he has done as chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank John Blazey, Rich Efford, Stephanie Gupta, and Linda Muir for all their hard work and long hours. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding staff and committee.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Northern Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), my friend and colleague and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation of the Committee on Appropriations, very much for yielding to me for his leadership on this bill, and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation for his exemplary leadership.

This bill is balanced. It is fair. It is responsible. It maintains and in fact improves our Nation's entire transportation infrastructure. I urge that it be supported. It also makes our roadways safer by encouraging States to adopt stricter thresholds for drunk driving. It contains a matter of vital importance to the entire mid-Atlantic corridor and to interstate commerce.

As Members may be aware, this metropolitan Washington region suffers from the second worst traffic congestion in the entire country. No place is this problem more critical than at the

Woodrow Wilson Bridge. It was built 40 years ago. It is crumbling before our eyes. Ten lanes of traffic are having to converge into six lanes.

We are told that, if we do not get this bridge rebuilt within 5 to 6 years, we may have to divert 20,000 trucks from being able to cross the bridge. Not only would that be a nightmare scenario for the region, but it would be a severe handicap to this Nation's economy. So the \$600 million that is included in this bridge is critically important.

I would remind any Members that have questions about this, this is a federally owned bridge. It is a Federal responsibility. It will be turned over to the States as soon as it is reconstructed, as soon as we have a new bridge built. The States will pick up the financing from here on this. But this was necessary, and it was necessary now.

I am very appreciative, not only to all the Members of the subcommittee, its leadership, its staff, but also the Members of the regional delegation on the House and Senate side who worked together in a bipartisan constructive manner.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Transportation bill, and I wanted to congratulate both the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member. I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) for his courageous leadership on the .08 issue. We have been fighting for this a very long time. Without his hard work, we would not be at this point today.

When I first introduced this legislation 3 years ago, I knew that it was going to be an uphill road to victory. I also knew that this was the right thing for the American people.

Quite simply, this is about saving lives. Five hundred to 600 lives will be saved in the United States each year when every State adopts the .08 standard. Tens of thousands of injuries will be avoided. These two statistics are too compelling to ignore.

What we are talking about is not putting our values on someone else. All we are saying is, if one is going to drink, just do not drive. This is the right standard. It is the right time.

We know that the relative risk of a fatality on the road is 11 times greater at BACs between .08 and .09.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) again for his courageous work on this important issue.

I rise today in strong support of the Transportation Appropriations bill. I am also pleased to announce that today, Congress is standing up in defense of safer roads. Congress is poised with this vote to make .08 the law of the land.

I want to thank Chairman WOLF for his courageous leadership on this issue. Without his hard work, we wouldn't be at this point today.

When I first introduced legislation on this issue three years ago, I knew that it was going to be an uphill road to victory. I also knew that this was the right thing for the American people.

Quite simply, this is about saving lives. 500–600 lives will be saved in the U.S. each year when every state adopts the .08 standard. And tens of thousands of injuries will be avoided. These statistics are too compelling to ignore. There are just too many accidents involving .08 drivers for us to stand by. This is the right standard and this is the right time.

We know that the relative risk of a fatality on the road is eleven times greater at BACs between .05 and .09 than with no alcohol in your blood. And the Administration and the Department of Transportation released two reports last month showing that .08 works for states that have already adopted it. In fact, Illinois alone, which adopted .08 in 1997, has seen a 13.7% decline in the number of drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes.

We have fought so hard for this standard over the cries of the restaurant and liquor lobbies. They say that ordinary people who have a glass of wine with dinner will be pulled over and charged with drunk driving. That's simply not true. It takes four drinks in one hour on an empty stomach to get a 170 pound man to .08. No dinner, just drinks. It takes four of them. That's a far cry from a glass of wine with dinner.

We knew this then and we know it now. Drinking and driving do not mix.

Again, I just want to express my great pleasure to announce this important victory today. I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), ranking member, for the work they have done on a bill that has very many good things, whether it be the Coast Guard, the .08 blood alcohol level, highway safety and construction, and mass transit.

But I do have two problems with this bill. The first is this bill is indicative of the fact that the budget process in this Congress has become a fallacy. This bill is over the House mark, it is over the Senate mark, and it is over the administration's mark. It is leading us down the path to where we have eroded or evaded the Budget Act and even the Unified Budget Act of 1968. So I think that is a problem in this bill.

Second of all, I have to say this bill includes language which prohibits the Houston Metro from using its share of Federal funds for a light rail project. The Houston Metro is the only agency in the country that has that prohibition. It seems to me this is a case of

Washington knows best, telling the City of Houston and its areas what it is going to do.

They are going to build the rail project anyway with their own money. But Houston will be the only city that is not allowed to use Federal funds. I think this is a mistake, and I think it is a problem in this bill. I would hope in the future we can correct it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership and his excellent efforts with the issue of .08. I think that we will save lives, and I appreciate having the opportunity to vote on this legislation that includes this instructive and positive legislative initiative.

Let me thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member, as well for his kindness; and I say that to him on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District. We appreciate the gentleman's balance and also his interest in our issues, and that of all of our colleagues.

This bill has some very good elements: The ATP program in Houston for \$2.5 million and a connectivity program for \$750,000 that is very important to the residents of the third ward.

The pipeline safety allocation is very important to me, and the transit programs are likewise. I am delighted that we saw fit to ensure that more people in this Nation have rail. I might cite for my colleagues, Atlanta, Baltimore, Canton, Akron, Cleveland, Florida, and a variety of other places.

So my concern is, Mr. Speaker, that here we are in Washington dictating to the citizens of Houston that they cannot have light rail. This is the mayor of the city of Houston, the county judge, the partnership, residents and others who have expressed their desire for light rail.

I would simply say that I applaud this bill. I will support this bill. But I look forward to the needs of the people of Houston being addressed in the next session so that we can move forward on our light rail project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member, for doing an excellent job with this bill. I am going to vote for this bill.

I have served on this subcommittee every year that I have been on the Committee on Appropriations and have dealt with transportation problems in many different cities as well as transportation issues for the City of Houston and the metroplex around Houston. Up until now, we have had excellent opportunity to work with Houston.

Unfortunately, we have a new mass transit system that has decided to break what I thought was a model for the Nation of different transportation entities working together and sometimes overlapping and being concerned about mobility in Houston. We now have a metro system that has decided that they are going to build a megamulti-billion dollar rail system without the input of the people of Houston, without the people of Houston even gathering the information that would deal with this.

It is the age-old bureaucratic strategy of let us build a little bitty short system, and then when it does not work, we can force the people into building a bigger system.

Now, I have very serious concerns about that. I especially have concerns that, when we have a full-funding agreement on the mass transit monies going to Houston, that they want to come in and undermine that full funding agreement by taking some of that money and putting it into a rail system that has not been designed or considered by everybody in the Houston metroplex.

Therefore, I told the Houston Metro System that, when they get their act together, when they look at congestion studies, when they look at the regional mobility plan, then we can talk about a rail system as part of that overall regional mobility plan.

I have one other issue. I am for .08. Texas has .08. But I have very strong concerns about the Federal Government blackmailing States into doing something that maybe the States have a different idea in how to solve the problem.

But I am going to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do so also.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, let me quickly say with great respect to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. DELAY), that the City of Houston, the County of Harris has a regional mobility plan. In fact, County Judge Echols has sent this multipage document to all Members of Congress. In addition, the Houston Partnership right now is involved in a regional plan, an additional plan.

I know that the Congress needs to move forward on this bill, and we cannot debate local issues. But I hope the Congress realizes this is not a local issue. This is a question of equality and parity when all of the other areas of the Nation are able to get dollars for

light rail. I think, if the community wants light rail and meets the requirement, then this Congress should give them consideration. I look forward in the future Congresses and elsewhere to provide that for my community.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me just comment a little bit on the situation of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). Nobody has been a stronger advocate in my times on the committee for mass transit in Houston than the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). He had the subcommittee go down there years ago to look at it, and I understand what he is trying to do. The same thing has happened in other parts of the country. People want to immediately move to rail.

In my area, we eventually would like to have rail going out to Dulles Airport. I support that. But our intermediate step is the rapid bus transit which will be for one-tenth of the cost. In some respects, that is really modeled after what has been taking place in Houston. So what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is saying is one moves to that and then afterward. So I think he has been a very strong advocate for the entire time.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I echo the comments of the regional delegation who worked together. The Woodrow Wilson Bridge, it is the whole north-south corridor which, if it ever collapsed or prohibited the use of trucks, it would just devastate the economy of the Northeast.

The Coast Guard, as the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) said, the necessary increase, particularly for the men and women who serve and are risking their lives; the increase for drug interdiction, the increase for the FAA; the .08 which will save so many lives.

So in closing, I urge passage. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO). I could not have had a better working relationship. God bless. Thank you.

I urge the passage of the bill.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of this conference report. I say reluctant because there is a provision in this bill which tramples state rights.

The conference agreement requires states to adopt a .08 blood alcohol law and provides highway sanctions beginning in fiscal year 2004. Reductions in highway funds of 2 percent per year would be phased in, not to exceed 8 percent, for those states that are in noncompliance. Now I strongly support measures to discourage drunk driving. But this provision disregards the right of states to regulate alcohol sales. Such a provision should not be included as a part of this conference report and it should have been rejected.

Unfortunately it was not. And as opposed as I am to this provision I am going to vote for this report. It provides much needed federal funds to increase the capacity and safety of our nation's transportation infrastructure. In total, the bill provides nearly \$17.8 billion in discretionary budget authority, an increase of

\$3.5 billion over the fiscal year 2000 enacted level. Outlays, mostly needed for transportation infrastructure, are up 13.3 percent compared to the fiscal year 2000 enacted level. The conference agreement provides \$12 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration—\$2.5 billion (25 percent) over the fiscal year 2000 enacted level and 7 percent more than the Administration's request. Funding for the airport improvement program is \$3.2 billion, an increase of \$1.25 billion—or 64 percent—over the fiscal year 2000 enacted level. It also includes \$5 billion is provided in the conference report to reduce the public debt.

Thus, despite my misgivings about the impact of this bill on state's rights. I will vote for this bill. However, I will continue to work with my colleagues to overturn this provision or to lessen its impact on state's rights.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all those responsible for bringing to the House Floor a transportation appropriations measure that will be of great benefit to this country. I know a lot of hard work went into the crafting of this conference report and I want everyone who contributed to it to know that they have my thanks.

Assuming this legislation is signed into law, as I surely hope it will be, Americans will benefit in a number of ways.

First, they will be able to travel more quickly and easily thanks to the multitude of highway, rail, airport and mass transit projects that are funded by this measure. With traffic congestion growing on our existing roads and at our airports, that is very important.

Second, they will know that the taxes they have paid to finance highway and airport improvements are being spent for those purposes. In this day and age, when cynicism about government is all too prevalent, it is equally important that money raised for a particular purpose be spent as intended.

And last but not least, they will have reason to believe that the foundation is being laid for a transportation network that will meet people's needs for decades to come. Given the increase in commuting times in many of our metropolitan areas, that is reassuring.

A good example of why people should derive reassurance from this legislation can be found in the transportation infrastructure investments it makes in the Chicago area. Not only does it provide funding for three METRA commuter rail projects in the region, including one in the district I am privileged to represent, but it also funds a pair of Chicago Transit Authority route rehabilitation projects. In addition, and this is very reassuring, the language and the explanation of the conference report pave the way for Full Funding Grant Agreements for all five of those projects, which greatly improves the prospects that they will be completed on schedule.

In addition, the conference report makes several investments in the development of several future-oriented intelligent transportation systems in the Chicagoland, including one for Lake County, Illinois, much of which I am privileged to represent. Also, it funds a study of the possibility of extending METRA's commuter rail service from Chicago all the way to Milwaukee, plus it provides money for bus routes and numerous other transportation improvements.

All of these things bode well for the residents of my district, the people of the Chicago

area and all of those who come to the Chicagoland on vacation or to conduct business. On their behalf, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all those responsible and to urge enactment of this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4475, the FY 2001 Transportation and Related Agencies Conference Report. This bill includes significant funding for projects that will ease traffic congestion in Northern Virginia which was the dubious distinction of the second worst traffic congestion in the nation. Most importantly, I would like to applaud the inclusion of \$600 million for the replacement of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. This is money that is desperately needed to fund a vital East Coast Interstate link. Additionally, this bill contains important funding for other Northern Virginia projects including \$50 million for rail out the Dulles Corridor, \$3 million for bus funding in Prince William County, \$500,000 to complete the Fairfax County trail system, \$500,000 for the Fair Lakes League Shuttle, \$500,000 for Potomac River Jet ferry boat funding for ferry service from Prince William County to the Navy Yard and Washington Harbour, and \$5 million for 14th Street Bridge improvements.

Since I first came to Congress in 1995, finding the appropriate solution for replacing and paying for a new Woodrow Wilson Bridge has been one of my top priorities. We face a critical time frame to follow in replacing the old bridge structure in order to avoid regional and eastern seaboard gridlock. The replacement of this rapidly aging structure is urgent and desperately needed. The \$600 million we secured today brings the total federal commitment to \$1.5 billion. This will fulfill our obligation to this project.

For quite some time, the federal government and Virginia and Maryland have known that the bridge needed to be replaced, or truck traffic would have to be rerouted throughout the entire Washington Metropolitan area. However, there has been ongoing debate about the level of commitment the federal government needed to provide to the project. That is because the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is truly a unique circumstance. It is the only federally-owned bridge in the United States, it is the midpoint between Maine and Florida on Interstate 95, it is technically located in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and it links the Capital Beltway at its southern crossing point between Maryland and Virginia. These factors have all combined to significantly shorten the life of the current bridge and create the dire circumstance that our region and the east coast faces.

As the midpoint between Maine and Florida in the Interstate system, it carries an unusually large amount of interstate commerce up and down the east coast. In 1993, it was estimated by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics that 1.3 percent of gross domestic product carried by truck crossed the Wilson Bridge. That is \$58 billion, a figure that I am certain has only increased in the past seven years. Four hundred and fifty miles is the average distance traveled by truck shipments once they have crossed the bridge. It is important to note the many cities that fall within that 450 mile travel shed: Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Norfolk, New York City, Richmond, Raleigh, Newark, Savannah, Hartford, and Trenton. Forty-nine percent of heavy trucks, or 7,000 trucks crossing the bridge go beyond the immediate area.

That means that consumers up and down the east coast would face higher prices for products and services if truck traffic had to be rerouted and delivery of products was slowed.

As the southern crossing point for the Capital Beltway, it has carried more traffic and heavy trucks than it was designed to hold. When the bridge was opened in 1961, it was designed as a lightweight, flexible structure to serve a 4-lane beltway without heavy truck traffic. As early as 1969, the bridge began carrying more traffic than its designed capacity of 75,000 vehicles. In 1975, the decision was made that Interstate 95 should not be routed through Washington, D.C. as originally planned, and the bridge is now the default southern crossing for I-95. To accommodate that change, the beltway was widened to eight lanes but the structural limitations of the bridge meant that it could not be widened. While we may all now agree with the 1975 decision, it had serious implications for the life span of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. In 1988, the bridge begins to carry 150,000 vehicles daily. This history doomed the original bridge structure to fail much earlier than anticipated and put us in the situation we face today.

In TEA-21, this Committee and the 105th Congress recognized the federal responsibility for the bridge and funded the construction of the bridge at \$900 million. As I have said, now we have come up with the additional \$600 million federal commitment to allow this project to go forward. Virginia and Maryland must now make their funding commitment available so this urgent project goes forward on time.

While the Wilson Bridge project will receive a large amount of federal funding, without this commitment for the Bridge, the entire Washington Metropolitan area could face potential gridlock. One of the nation's strongest regional economies and the seat of our federal government could face a grave threat should this bridge project not move forward in a timely manner. As we have seen in the past, a shutdown Wilson Bridge can shut down this region and our Nation's Capital.

I am also proud that we have been able to include an additional \$50 million for rail out the Dulles Corridor. This follows on the \$86 million I was able to secure in the TEA-21 legislation in the 105th Congress and the \$25 million we were able to secure in last year's transportation appropriations bill. This is a critically needed project that will serve the ongoing growth out the Dulles Corridor. Rail to Dulles will significantly ease congestion in the Tysons Corner region and through Reston and Herndon in my Congressional District.

I would also like to note the inclusion of three projects that will help ease congestion in the I-95 corridor and for my constituents in Prince William County. H.R. 4475 provides funding for necessary improvements on the 14th Street Bridge. These improvements will significantly relieve the bottleneck that occurs during the morning and evening rush hours. This bill includes \$3 million for bus funding for Prince William County to replace an aging fleet. Also, it includes \$500,000 for funding for ferry service from Prince William County to the Washington Navy Yard and Washington Harbour. These two items will provide alternatives to those who otherwise face long commutes through the Springfield Interchange replacement project.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge serves the people who serve our

government in all three branches of government. Gridlock in the Nation's Capital is one of the gravest threats facing the daily operation of our Republic. I would also like to thank my good friend, Mr. WOLF for his leadership on this important bill and his leadership chairing the Subcommittee on Transportation Appropriations. His commitment to providing the necessary transportation funding for this nation's vital projects is enabling all our communities address the tremendous growth we are undergoing nationwide and ensuring that our families are able to spend less time in traffic and more time at home.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss H.R. 4475, the fiscal year 2001 transportation appropriations bill.

I am pleased that the conference report honors the funding guarantees in TEA-21 and AIR-21, while still providing sufficient funds for other important transportation programs such as the Coast Guard and AMTRAK.

As you know, I have long believed that we could honor the principle of dedicating trust fund revenues to their intended purposes while still maintaining sufficient funding for other important transportation programs, and this bill proves it.

By fully funding TEA-21 and AIR-21, this bill will have far-reaching impacts on the quality of life in our communities, the nation's economy, and our competitiveness in the world marketplace.

The benefits of shortened travel times, increased productivity, and improved safety will affect every American and every business every day.

In particular, the resources provided by this bill are an important first step toward reducing the aviation gridlock that we began to experience last summer.

I am disappointed by the conferees' decision to include many legislative and unauthorized provisions that, had they been included in the House bill, would have violated the rules of the House.

I am particularly concerned by the provision that will penalize each state that does not adopt a legal blood alcohol content limit of .08 percent by reducing that state's federal highway funding.

Congress addressed the problem of drunk driving most recently 2 years ago in TEA-21.

In TEA-21, Congress provided a generous financial incentive to states that adopt .08 BAC laws, as well as incentives for a number of other anti-drunk driving approaches that have proven very effective in targeting the most egregious offenders.

TEA-21 conferees wanted to encourage states to adopt a .08 BAC law, but did not want to do so at the expense of other, more effective programs that the states were employing to reduce drunk driving accidents.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as the committee of jurisdiction over this provision, will look at the .08 funding sanction very carefully in the next Congress to determine whether or not it is appropriate and effective.

In addition, I am disappointed that the conference report alters the distribution of funds made available by the revenue aligned budget authority provision of TEA-21, which increases or decreases funding based on actual gas tax revenues deposited in the Highway Trust Fund.

In doing so, the conference report alters the distribution of contract authority from the High-

way Trust Fund that was painstakingly arrived at by the TEA-21 conferees.

I am also concerned about the unprecedented earmarking of airport improvement program funds in the report accompanying this bill.

The AIP discretionary funds earmarked by this report are funds that the FAA should be targeting to the highest priority safety, security and capacity enhancing projects.

FAA has its own internal priority system for deciding which airports should get the few discretionary dollars that are available.

This system puts the highest priority on projects that will enhance safety. That is entirely appropriate.

In issuing discretionary AIP grants, I would urge the FAA to stick to its priority system and not be swayed by earmarks in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this conference report, which after all, are not legally binding.

If, nevertheless, the FAA chooses to fund these earmarks, I urge the FAA to look, in the first instance, to the airport's entitlement funds to provide the money.

Finally, I am also disappointed that the conference report includes funding for transit new start projects that were neither authorized in TEA-21 nor cleared by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Demand for new starts funding already far exceeds available resources. Funding unauthorized projects spreads limited resources too broadly, and will produce a lower return on federal investment.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report and commend the Committee for its hard work.

I am especially pleased and delighted because this Conference Report includes funding for the New Jersey Community Development Center's "Transportation Opportunity Center," which is located in Paterson, New Jersey.

The Transportation Opportunity Center will demonstrate the vital role that transportation and the transportation industry plays in extending economic opportunity to low income individuals—particularly those moving from welfare to work.

The Center is in the heart of Paterson's historic district and will be used to educate low-income citizens about using existing public transportation to access suburban-based jobs.

It is through innovative programs like the Transportation Opportunity Center that we can continue to increase access to transportation for low-income citizens who are striving to participate in this prosperous economy.

These changes are good for our environment, good for our economy, and good for our quality of life.

I have said so many times—and I think you would all agree—that we do not invest in our transportation system merely to improve roads and bridges.

Transportation is not merely about getting from point A to point B. We invest in transportation to improve the very quality of life for our citizens.

That is what this project will do.

Again, I thank the Committee for its hard work, and I urge my colleagues to support this Conference Report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 344, nays 50, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—344

Abercrombie	Ehlers	Latham
Aderholt	Ehrlich	LaTourette
Allen	Emerson	Leach
Andrews	Engel	Lee
Armey	English	Levin
Baca	Etheridge	Lewis (CA)
Bachus	Evans	Lewis (KY)
Baird	Everett	Linder
Baldacci	Ewing	Lipinski
Barr	Farr	LoBiondo
Barrett (NE)	Fattah	Lofgren
Bartlett	Filner	Lowey
Bass	Fletcher	Lucas (KY)
Becerra	Foley	Lucas (OK)
Bereuter	Forbes	Luther
Berkley	Ford	Maloney (CT)
Berry	Fossella	Maloney (NY)
Biggert	Fowler	Manzullo
Bilbray	Frank (MA)	Markey
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Martinez
Bishop	Frost	Mascara
Blagojevich	Galleghy	Matsui
Bliley	Ganske	McCarthy (MO)
Blunt	Gejdenson	McCarthy (NY)
Boehlert	Gekas	McCrery
Bonilla	Gephardt	McDermott
Bonior	Gibbons	McGovern
Bono	Gilchrest	McHugh
Borski	Gilman	McInnis
Boswell	Gonzalez	McIntyre
Boucher	Goode	McKeon
Boyd	Goodlatte	McKinney
Brady (PA)	Goodling	McNulty
Brown (FL)	Gordon	Meehan
Brown (OH)	Granger	Menendez
Burr	Greenwood	Mica
Burton	Gutierrez	Millender-
Buyer	Hall (OH)	McDonald
Callahan	Hall (TX)	Miller, Gary
Calvert	Hastings (FL)	Miller, George
Camp	Hastings (WA)	Minge
Canady	Hayes	Mink
Cannon	Hill (IN)	Moakley
Capps	Hill (MT)	Mollohan
Capuano	Hilleary	Moore
Cardin	Hilliard	Moran (KS)
Castle	Hinchey	Moran (VA)
Chambliss	Hinojosa	Morella
Chenoweth-Hage	Hobson	Murtha
Clayton	Hoeffel	Myrick
Clement	Holden	Nadler
Clyburn	Holt	Napolitano
Coble	Hooley	Neal
Collins	Horn	Nethercutt
Combest	Houghton	Ney
Condit	Hoyer	Northup
Conyers	Hulshof	Norwood
Cook	Hunter	Nussle
Cooksey	Hyde	Oberstar
Costello	Inlee	Olver
Coyne	Isakson	Ortiz
Cramer	Istook	Ose
Crane	Jackson (IL)	Owens
Crowley	Jackson-Lee	Packard
Cummings	(TX)	Pallone
Cunningham	Jefferson	Pascrell
Danner	Jenkins	Pastor
Davis (FL)	John	Payne
Davis (IL)	Johnson (CT)	Pease
Davis (VA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Deal	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)
DeFazio	Kanjorski	Peterson (PA)
DeGette	Kaptur	Phelps
Delahunt	Kelly	Pickering
DeLauro	Kennedy	Pickett
DeLay	Kildee	Pombo
Deutsch	Kilpatrick	Pomeroy
Dickey	Kingston	Porter
Dingell	Knollenberg	Portman
Dixon	Kolbe	Price (NC)
Dooley	Kucinich	Pryce (OH)
Doolittle	Kuykendall	Quinn
Doyle	LaFalce	Radanovich
Dreier	LaHood	Rahall
Duncan	Lampson	Ramstad
Dunn	Lantos	Regula
Edwards	Larson	Reynolds

Riley	Skeen	Traficant
Rivers	Skelton	Turner
Rodriguez	Slaughter	Udall (CO)
Roemer	Smith (MI)	Udall (NM)
Rogan	Smith (NJ)	Upton
Rogers	Smith (WA)	Visclosky
Ros-Lehtinen	Snyder	Vitter
Rothman	Souder	Walden
Roukema	Spratt	Walsh
Roybal-Allard	Stabenow	Wamp
Rush	Stark	Watkins
Sabo	Stenholm	Watt (NC)
Sanchez	Stupak	Watts (OK)
Sanders	Sununu	Weiner
Sandlin	Sweeney	Weldon (FL)
Sawyer	Tancredo	Weller
Saxton	Tanner	Wexler
Scarborough	Tauscher	Weygand
Shakowsky	Tauzin	Whitfield
Scott	Taylor (NC)	Wicker
Serrano	Terry	Wilson
Shaw	Thomas	Wolf
Shays	Thompson (CA)	Woolsey
Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Wu
Sherwood	Thune	Wynn
Shimkus	Thurman	Young (AK)
Shows	Tiahrt	Young (FL)
Simpson	Tierney	
Sisisky	Towns	

NAYS—50

Archer	Green (TX)	Rohrabacher
Baldwin	Green (WI)	Royce
Barcia	Gutknecht	Ryan (WI)
Barrett (WI)	Hayworth	Ryun (KS)
Barton	Herger	Salmon
Bentsen	Hoekstra	Sanford
Boehner	Hostettler	Schaffer
Brady (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Sensenbrenner
Bryant	Jones (NC)	Sessions
Chabot	Kasich	Shadegg
Coburn	Kind (WI)	Stearns
Cox	Kleccka	Stump
Cubin	Largent	Taylor (MS)
DeMint	Obey	Thornberry
Doggett	Oxley	Toomey
Gillmor	Petri	Velazquez
Graham	Pitts	

NOT VOTING—39

Ackerman	Hansen	Paul
Baker	Hefley	Rangel
Ballenger	Hutchinson	Reyes
Berman	King (NY)	Shuster
Blumenauer	Klink	Smith (TX)
Campbell	Lazio	Spence
Carson	Lewis (GA)	Strickland
Clay	McCollum	Talent
Diaz-Balart	McIntosh	Vento
Dicks	Meek (FL)	Waters
Eshoo	Meeks (NY)	Waxman
Franks (NJ)	Metcalf	Weldon (PA)
Goss	Miller (FL)	Wise

□ 1150

Messrs. BENTSEN and HERGER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. LUTHER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1509. An act to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 2496. An act to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

H.R. 2641. An act to make technical corrections to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

H.R. 2778. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2833. An act to establish the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area.

H.R. 3201. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Carter G. Woodson Home in the District of Columbia as a National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3632. An act to revise the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3676. An act to establish the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in the State of California.

H.R. 3745. An act to authorize the addition of certain parcels to the Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa.

H.R. 3817. An act to dedicate the Big South Trail in the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area of Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado to the legacy of Jaryd Atadero.

H.R. 4063. An act to establish the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in the State of California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4226. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest.

H.R. 4275. An act to establish the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4285. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites for National Forest System lands in the State of Texas, to convey certain National Forest System land to the New Waverly Gulf Coast Trades Center, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4286. An act to provide for the establishment of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

H.R. 4435. An act to clarify certain boundaries on the map relating to Unit NC-01 of the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

H.R. 4444. An act to authorize extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the People's Republic of China, and to establish a framework for relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

H.R. 4613. An act to amend the National Historic Preservation Act for purposes of establishing a national historic lighthouse preservation program.

H.R. 5036. An act to amend the Dayton Aviation Heritage preservation act of 1992 to clarify the areas included in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and to authorize appropriations for that park.

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution recognizing the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of the contributions of Americans of German heritage.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is

requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 34. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make technical corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

H.R. 209. An act to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions.

H.R. 468. An act to establish the Saint Helena Island National Scenic Area.

H.R. 1695. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal public lands in the Ivanpah Valley, Nevada, to Clark County, Nevada, for the development of an airport facility, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1725. An act to provide for the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management to Douglas County, Oregon, of a county park and certain adjacent land.

H.R. 2879. An act to provide for the placement at the Lincoln Memorial of a plaque commemorating the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., known as the "I Have A Dream" speech.

H.R. 3292. An act to provide for the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 707) "An Act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes," with amendment.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 134. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study whether the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore should be protected as a wilderness area.

S. 1367. An act to amend the Act which established the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, in the State of New Hampshire, by modifying the boundary and for other purposes.

S. 1670. An act to revise the boundary of Fort Matanzas National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 1925. An act to promote environmental restoration around the Lake Tahoe basin.

S. 1972. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the town of Dolores, Colorado, the current site of the Joe Rowell Park.

S. 2069. An act to permit the conveyance of certain land in Powell, Wyoming.

S. 2111. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey for fair market value 1.06 acres of land in the San Bernardino National Forest, California, to KATY 101.3 FM, a California corporation.

S. 2273. An act to establish the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

S. 2300. An act to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an entity in any 1 State.

S. 2331. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit the dispute over the franchise fee owed by Fort Sumter Tours, Inc. to binding arbitration.

S. 2345. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study concerning the preservation and public

use of sites associated with Harriet Tubman located in Auburn, New York, and for other purposes.

S. 2439. An act to authorize the appropriation of funds for the construction of the Southeastern Alaska Intertie system, and for other purposes.

S. 2478. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, and for other purposes.

S. 2485. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

S. 2499. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Pennsylvania.

S. 2691. An act to provide further protections for the watershed of the Little Sandy River as part of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, Oregon, and for other purposes.

S. 2749. An act to establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States.

S. 2757. An act to provide for the transfer and other disposition of certain lands at Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico, and Yakima Training Center, Washington.

S. 2865. An act to designate certain land of the National Forest System located in the State of Virginia as wilderness.

S. 2872. An act to improve the cause of action for misrepresentation of Indian arts and crafts.

S. 2885. An act to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 2942. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects in the State of West Virginia.

S. 2950. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in the State of Colorado.

S. 2977. An act to assist in the establishment of an interpretive center and museum in the vicinity of the Diamond Valley Lake in southern California to ensure the protection and interpretation of the paleontology discoveries made at the lake and to develop a trail system for the lake for use by pedestrians and nonmotorized vehicles.

S. 3000. An act to authorize the exchange of land between the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of Central Intelligence at the George Washington Memorial Parkway in McLean, Virginia, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 143. Concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill, H.R. 3676.

S. Con. Res. 144. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in Washington, DC.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1236) "An Act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for commencement of the construction of the Arrowrock Dam Hydroelectric Project in the State of Idaho."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1849) "An Act to designate segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the

House to the bill (S. 2311) "An Act to revise and extend the Ryan White CARE Act programs under title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, to improve access to health care and the quality of care under such programs, and to provide for the development of increased capacity to provide health care and related support services to individuals and families with HIV disease, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 835) "An Act to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes," and agrees to a conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mrs. BOXER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

□

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3244, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 613 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 613

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3244) to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions, in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague and friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 613 is a rule waiving all points of order against the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3244, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 3244 was passed by the House earlier this year on May 9 by voice vote. On September 27, our colleagues in the other body considered and passed this important legislation with an amendment by unanimous consent.

I would like to congratulate the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH)

for introducing the legislation and for his steadfast support of human rights around the world.

I also would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN); the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking member; and all the conferees for their efforts.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks to my colleague and friend, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), for all her work to fight violence against women; and I wish to congratulate her on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

The conference report includes three divisions: division A includes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000; division B, I am pleased to inform my colleagues, includes the Violence Against Women Act of 2000; and division C consists of three other important anti-crime measures.

Division B reauthorizes through fiscal year 2005 the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, which expired just last week.

As a former prosecutor and judge who served on the Domestic Violence Task Force back in my hometown of Columbus, Ohio, I have seen firsthand the ravages of domestic violence.

As such, I am firmly committed to doing all that I can to put an end to domestic violence and to ensure that victims have access to high-quality treatment, protective services, and ultimate justice.

The Department of Justice estimates that violence against women has decreased by 21 percent since this law was passed in 1994. By acting today, we will provide the needed protection to American women from the violence that seeks to destroy their lives; and, hopefully, these numbers will continue to decrease.

Specifically, the legislation authorizes \$3 billion over the next 5 years to fund programs that support State and local efforts to shelter battered women, train police and court officials in domestic abuse cases, and provide counseling service as well as a hotline for battered women.

In addition, it enacts a number of new programs. It authorizes \$10 million in grants for disabled victims of gender-motivated crimes and requires shelters to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mr. Speaker, additional funding is authorized to train emergency medical personnel in treating sexually abused patients, and it establishes procedures for handling evidence in rape cases.

The bill also ensures that the Legal Services Corporation grantees can help victims of sexual abuse obtain the needed assistance in civil cases against their attackers, and needed funding is provided for transitional housing assistance to women and their children when escaping domestic abuse.

Finally, this legislation doubles the amount authorized for the Violence Against Women Act over the next 5

years and extends the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, women who suffer from violence need our help and assistance. They need to know that there is someone to turn to and someplace safe to go to escape from the violence which they too often suffer.

This reauthorization fills that need and sends a strong message that someone cares and that help is there.

Mr. Speaker, division A of this important legislation includes H.R. 3244, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This legislation combats the trafficking of persons into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions in the United States and many other countries around the world.

Through prevention, prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, as well as protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, this important legislation fairly allocates resources, modifies existing law, and increases international cooperation to decrease the global trade of men, women, and children.

According to the Department of State, between one and two million women and children are trafficked each year worldwide into forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation. Incredible in this day and age.

Of these, approximately 50,000 individuals are trafficked to the United States each year. This is a major criminal enterprise generating billions of dollars annually. Trafficking is now considered the third largest source of profits for organized crime, behind only drugs and guns.

□ 1200

Victims of trafficking are first acquired in a number of different ways. Some are forcibly kidnapped and taken out of their own countries. Others are deceived with offers of good work or a better life. But no matter how they are taken, trafficking victims are universally subject to cruel mental and physical abuse, including beatings, rape, starvation, forced drug use, confinement and seclusion. Many victims suffer mental breakdowns and are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases. Ultimately, many cannot survive these harsh conditions.

H.R. 3244 works to prevent trafficking through measures to increase awareness and enhance economic opportunity for potential victims of trafficking as a method to deter them from becoming victims in the first place. Further, this legislation urges countries to prohibit and punish severe forms of trafficking and establishes minimum standards applicable to countries that have a significant trafficking problem and assistance for programs and activities designed to meet the standards.

For those who are unfortunate enough to have been trafficking victims, the legislation establishes programs and initiatives to assist in their safe integration, reintegration, or re-

settlement. For victims located in the United States, the bill provides protection while in Federal custody and amends current law to grant non-immigrant visas to victims who would face a significant possibility of retribution or other harm if they were forced to leave. In addition, we make those funds seized from traffickers available for victims' restitution and victims assistance programs.

Mr. Speaker, finally, division C includes three other important provisions which all passed the House earlier this year. The first bill, Aimee's Law, passed in July. That requires the Attorney General to transfer Federal law enforcement assistance funds from any State that convicted a person of a first offense of murder, rape or a dangerous sexual offense to the State that ultimately convicts that same person of a subsequent offense. In other words, Aimee's Law encourages States to keep murderers, rapists and child molesters behind bars and hold them financially accountable if they do not to the States that end up having to incarcerate on the second offense.

The second bill, the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, also passed the House in July. It provides assistance to American victims of terrorism and allows those victims who prevail in court to collect against the frozen assets of terrorist countries. It is designed to send a strong message to terrorists and their state sponsors and will allow victims of past terrorist acts to finally receive some level of justice.

Finally, the third bill, the Twenty-First Amendment Enforcement Act, passed the House in August. It grants States that have the authority to regulate interstate sale of alcohol within their borders the right to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this law is straightforward and noncontroversial. Its adoption will allow the House to consider and pass this important conference report. I urge all my colleagues to support both the rule and these essential provisions which seek to protect women, end violence, and fight crime.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this resolution waives all points of order against the conference report on H.R. 3244 and against its consideration.

Mr. Speaker, in June 1994, I first introduced legislation addressing the growing problem of Burmese women and children being sold to work in the thriving sex industry in Thailand. This legislation responded to reports indicating that thousands of Burmese women and girls were being trafficked into Thailand with false promises of good-paying jobs in restaurants or fac-

tories and then forced to work in brothels under slavery-like conditions. Some of the victims were as young as 5 years old.

As I learned more about this issue, it became clear that it was not limited to one particular region of the world. In fact, in the wake of the discovery of a prostitution ring of trafficked women in Florida and the Carolinas, as well as a group of Thai garment workers held captive in California, I soon realized that this was an issue that must be dealt with in our own backyard as well.

Six years later I am proud to be standing here today to support this important legislation. H.R. 3244 sets forth policies not only to monitor but to eliminate trafficking here in the United States and abroad. More importantly, it does so in a way that punishes the true perpetrators, the traffickers themselves, while at the same time taking the necessary steps to protect the victims of this heinous crime. Finally, it uses our Nation's considerable influence throughout the world to put pressure on other nations to adopt policies that will hopefully lead to an end this abhorrent practice.

The bill recognizes the fact that trafficking is not exclusively a crime of sexual exploitation. Taken independently, this action is an egregious practice in and of itself. It is also important, however, to be aware that people are being illegally smuggled across borders to work in sweatshops, domestic servitude or other slavery-like conditions.

Mr. Speaker, developing this initiative has been a long and arduous process. At the beginning of this endeavor many of the groups involved had different approaches to defining and dealing with this issue. In addition, we also had to deal with a State Department that was less than cooperative when dealing with the Congress. Nevertheless, we are here today because this is an issue that is important enough to cross both partisan and personality divides.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report also reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act. I am proud to have a long history of activism on domestic violence issues. Fifteen years ago our greatest challenge was convincing Americans that domestic violence was a real problem. Many women knew only too well that we were in the midst of a deadly epidemic, but the culture of silence that surrounded the issue made it difficult for them to speak out or to get help. Being a victim of domestic violence was a source of fear and shame. Many women were trapped in these situations without any means of escape. Furthermore, domestic violence tended to be trivialized by law enforcement, by the judicial system, by health care providers and sometimes even by friends, family or neighbors.

We have come a long way in the 15 years since I began working on these issues. The single most important thing that Congress did to effect a

change was pass the Violence Against Women Act. The Violence Against Women Act catapulted domestic violence onto the national agenda, providing Federal support for programs like shelters for battered women and their children, education for law enforcement officers and judges, and resources mostly for prevention and education. I am proud to have been the author of provisions of VAWA that protected battered immigrant women who were often trapped in abusive relationships by the threat of deportation. VAWA transformed the national landscape for victims of domestic violence. Today, a woman in an abusive relationship has options, a place to live, help with court proceedings, assistance for herself and her children, and protection from her batterer.

Nevertheless, we still have a long way to go. Too many women still die at the hands of an abusive spouse or boyfriend. Protective orders can be ineffective. Going on welfare is far from an ideal choice even as a temporary step. Convictions against batterers remain infrequent and penalties can be extremely light. It is imperative that Congress reauthorize these vital programs.

Also included in this conference report are miscellaneous provisions relating to Aimee's Law, assistance to victims of terrorism and the Twenty-First Amendment Act regarding Internet alcohol sales.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) my distinguished colleague from the Committee on Rules.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Committee on Rules, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), for not only working on this issue but also my other colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), for her work on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, today we are talking about the conference report on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. In particular, we are trying to draw attention to the importance of what the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 is all about.

Mr. Speaker, for quite some time I have been engaged in trying to work with women's centers in Dallas, Texas, who every day are a part of the lives of thousands of women who are taken advantage of in marriage, taken advantage of not only because of the frailties that they have as the caregivers for children, women who are responsible for making sure that a family works together and stays together and many times are in a marriage that is very difficult.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 is important because it once again enunciates by the House of Representatives that this is a crime that is taking place all across America, violence

against women, that we will not tolerate. Most importantly, the gentlewoman from Ohio is speaking up about the importance of the issue so that it is not hidden in the work that Congress does. It is important that we support not only this conference report but that we recognize that America and the importance that we put on solving this national epidemic are brought to the forefront, the importance of Congress and the importance of a public policy that we have.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Ohio is not only a leader in our Congress but she is a leader for women in this area. I salute her and applaud her for the hard work that she has put in on this act.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time. I rise in opposition to the rule. While the provisions relating to addressing sex trafficking and violence against women are essentially noncontroversial and should be enacted, this does not apply to section 2001 of the bill which includes the controversial Aimee's Law. I am aware of the political adage that no good politician will vote against a crime bill named after somebody, but I thought that before we vote on this rule that we want to think about some evaluations of Aimee's Law.

The bill is onerous, impractical and unworkable. It is worse than an unfunded mandate. It is certain to generate a morass of bureaucracy. It is enormously costly. And the probable public safety impact of the bill will be zero.

These are not my words but the words of the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the United States Department of Justice, and a noted criminologist. Despite all of these critical descriptions, the bill comes before us on the suspension calendar hooked up with noncontroversial items. Ask your governors and State legislators whether or not they believe that it will help victims of crime or simply allow Members to take credit for passing a good sound bite while avoiding doing anything the experts say will actually reduce crime, that is, investing in prevention programs.

Supporters of Aimee's Law say that it will prevent murderers, rapists and child molesters from committing second offenses. It requires the Attorney General to transfer a portion of one State's Federal money to another State each time a murderer or rapist released from the first State commits such an offense in the second State, unless the first State has either truth-in-sentencing or the person is sentenced to an above average time to be served. That above average can change from year to year. Since truth-in-sentencing and determinate sentencing are recent

sentencing practices and there is no limit on how far back you have to go to find prior convictions, trying to determine the information necessary to implement this provision will be a bureaucratic nightmare for the Attorney General and the States. So the fact is that the provision has a lot more to do with requiring bureaucratic processing and exchanging Federal funds than it has to do with preventing crime.

Aside from the impracticality of implementing this provision, even if the bureaucratic exchanges could occur, the net result will probably be a wash between States passing money back and forth. Further, States concerned about the fiscal impact of the bill or those wishing to cash in on it can play games. For instance, plea bargaining a high charge with a low sentence so that you can get the money rather than a lower charge like manslaughter with a higher sentence and you can cash in and get the money.

The fact is that no State without truth-in-sentencing will implement truth-in-sentencing as a result of this bill. That is because truth-in-sentencing in Virginia costs billions of dollars and no State will incur that kind of expense to avoid a few hundred thousand dollars that this bill might actually cost them.

All in all, the rule perpetuates soundbite politics at its worst. It tacks on to two noncontroversial provisions; a provision which creates a bureaucratic nightmare for the States and the Federal Government by second-guessing the sentences on crimes that have already occurred with no discernible effect on the crime rate.

□ 1215

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge that the rule be defeated, so that we can remove this provision and get on with well thought-out legislation which will actually reduce crime and help victims.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2½ minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), who has worked so hard on many of these provisions.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule and the underlying bill, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act Conference Report.

The package of legislation we have before us is critically important to the lives of millions of people across the world and here at home. Passage of this package will have a tremendously positive effect on the quality of life for millions of people across the world.

Just over a week ago, I joined my good friend, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), here on the floor to urge support for H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Act of 1999. Today, we have yet another opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to this important legislation.

While the Justice Department has estimated that since the start of the VAWA programs in 1994, domestic violence has dropped by almost 21 percent, this epidemic is not over yet. Still today, one in three girls age 16 to 19 will be abused by their boyfriends, and it is estimated that approximately 3 million children witness domestic abuse in their homes.

The legislation we have before us today will take a serious step towards breaking this cycle of violence and providing a better future, not only for the millions of women who have come to rely upon the services provided under VAWA, but also for the millions of teens and children who will now have access to services and will see that violence is not necessarily a way of life.

I would also like to take a moment to note that this legislation includes a measure I introduced in Congress to strengthen the Federal anti-stalking statute, the Stalking Prevention and Victim Protection Act. This bill, which passed the House unanimously last November, strengthens current law, which stipulates that one must travel across State lines in order to commit a Federal stalking offense. My measure acknowledges that stalking can be perpetrated through other mediums, such as over the telephone, through the mail, or over the Internet.

Today we again have the opportunity to help millions of people feel a little safer, knowing that we are here, that we are listening, and that we will once again fulfill our promise and continue to supply the resources to help them escape from abuse and end the cycle of violence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), for her tireless efforts on behalf of these men and women. I would like to thank my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), who helped move this legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to help me in supporting this rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am very gratified to see that the Violence Against Women Act is finally here on the floor in a conference report so that we are going to pass it. For reasons I stated on the floor before and many others have said today, reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is a tremendously important thing to do. I am unhappy that it is grouped with four completely unrelated other bills in this one bill, some of which I would vote for, and some against.

It is grouped with part of the sex trafficking act. We all want to put an end to sex trafficking. That is a good provision.

Victims of terrorism, to make it easier for victims to sue, a very good provi-

sion. It has nothing to do with the other bill, but it is a very good provision.

But then we have two other bills that are not too good. We have the Internet Alcohol Act, which is a commercial dispute between rival groups and should not be in this bill; and we have Aimee's Law, an extremely foolish political sound bite, which will have no impact except to cost States money and to create more bureaucracy.

Let us look at how ridiculous Aimee's Law, at least the version of Aimee's Law we have here, is. What this says is if someone is convicted of murder, rape or dangerous sexual offenses in one State, serves a jail term, and is subsequently released and then commits a similar crime in another State, the first State has to pay all the costs of incarceration and legal proceedings in the second State if the first State is a bad State.

What do we mean by a bad State? If the individual had served less than 85 percent of the term of imprisonment; or, if the individual had served more than 85 percent of the maximum sentence, if the average term of imprisonment imposed by the State for these kinds of offenses is less than the average term imposed for that offense in all States?

In other words, State A imposes an average sentence of 25 years. The national average is 27 years. Well, obviously State A had better improve its law. That is what we are saying. State A now changes its law to 28 years. That changes the average, and some other States change the average. State A is a bad State again, and it is going to be penalized if someone after serving 28 years goes out and commits another crime in a different State.

Now, you have got a moving target here. I do not think the drafters of this act thought through, and since I do not think there was a committee vote on this bill, there was no opportunity for amendments, it never was properly debated. And what ever happened to our concern for States to be able to write their own criminal justice laws? Here we are telling them, you had better keep ratcheting up your terms of imprisonment, no matter what you think is right, to match everybody else's, lest we charge you.

Now, it is not going to have a major practical effect, because the fact is that it is very rare for people to be convicted in a second State, but it is foolish and ought not be in this bill.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her leadership in bringing this rule to the floor.

I suggest to the gentleman from New York, when he makes statements like "this is a foolish bill," Aimee's Law, I would ask him to read the text of the bill, because I guess if your family or friends or someone close to you had

been murdered, raped or molested, you would not think this was such a foolish exercise. In fact, these are some of the crimes that have the highest degree of recidivism, and in fact in Florida we have suffered from people being released from prison and then coming to perpetrate the same murder and rape on innocent people in our State.

So I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) for his introduction of Aimee's Law, and I commend my colleagues for its passage, because I think it will help tighten, if you will, laws that affect people's lives, those who have been raped, some who have been murdered, children who have been molested. They need the full protection of the law, not protecting those who committed the crime.

I commend also the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) for his 21st Amendment Enforcement, and I am glad if is part of this bill. Hopefully it will lead to less drinking by underage people who may have found through the Internet chances to purchase alcohol. I think this is a very, very important provision.

Justice for victims of terrorism, that is extremely important in this bill.

The gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), obviously with Violence Against Women, another subject that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) has been very involved in, is an essential bill to our society. There is far too much prevalence of violence against women, domestic disputes; and we have to strengthen the law. We have to provide and strengthen services for victims. We have to do more to combat violence in families that can lead to the destruction, not only of a person's individual life, but the destruction of the children that are forced to watch this kind of parental misdeed, if you will.

Also on the first, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, it is again a very important provision of the bill. I think if people read through the bill, they would not use words like "foolish" or "political sound bites," but recognize these are indeed very, very important issues.

In fact, in Florida we had a professor at a university that had brought a child into this country, lured from his parents, brought here strictly for sexual services. He was underage. He was paid money. The parents were paid money under the assumption that the child was going to be given a better life in America. Regrettably, it was not for a better life, it was for sexual exploitation, right in my own community of Palm Beach County. Fortunately, the man is in jail. The law has dealt with this person. But, regrettably, there is not enough internationally being done in other countries to make certain that they are enforcing the laws as well.

So this goes to the heart of both domestic combatting of these issues, as well as working with our foreign colleagues, foreign governments, in order

to meet a higher standard, an international standard for elimination of the trafficking of individuals.

So I commend my colleagues to vote for the entirety of this report. I think it is a solid bill. Again, I commend the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) for her leadership on this, and I urge my colleagues to support it and its passage.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, there is much that is good in this bill before us today. I am particularly gratified that the efforts to fight trafficking in the sex trade have been included in this matter, so that we can actually get success in the fight against that this year.

I think the provision of visas for those who are fleeing from their oppressors, whether it be sweatshop or sexual abuse, is extremely important.

Obviously, the Violence against Women Act is enormously important. And although reasonable people can differ, and I think there is a technical issue in the Aimee's Law provision that absolutely must be corrected, that I think the ranking member of the committee will raise and hopefully will be able to deal with, I also support the Aimee's Law concept.

That is why I am so upset that with all of these good things that we would have bipartisan support on, and I think nearly overwhelming support, that, for some reason, the provision, the very controversial provision, about Internet and wine sales has been included in this matter. It does not belong in this package of bills. It is not about protecting children from abuse, and it just really is very distressing.

I have two teenagers, and they are good kids and their friends are good kids, and the argument that has been advanced is that we have to prohibit the Internet sale of wine to protect children.

Well, as a mother of two, that is preposterous. If a kid wanted to go out and buy alcohol, they are not going to get on the Internet, pay 20 bucks a bottle for wine in my district, or up in the Napa Valley, wait a couple of weeks for it to be delivered, and that is how they are doing underage drinking. That is not the way the real world works.

So, I urge a no vote on the rule in protest for this Internet wine sales tax. It is just so distressing that it has been included.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend for yielding and her good work and leadership on this issue.

I say to my colleagues, this is the result of an enormous amount of bipartisanship. The legislation, division A, which deals with trafficking of women,

we all know now that especially with the break up of the Soviet Union and the ascendancy of the Mob, organized crime in Moscow, in the Ukraine, and all around the world, is trafficking in women and children as never before.

The estimates are as high as 2 million individuals, mostly women, who are being trafficked every year. About 50,000 are coming into the United States, and many of those are forced into prostitution.

Our legislation, and, again I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) who has worked so closely on this, has been very bipartisan. It throws the book at those who would commit these heinous crimes and make money off the exploitation of women and children.

Our legislation provides \$95 million over 2 years for enforcement of anti-trafficking provisions. But, again, the life imprisonment aspect to it, the protection for the women themselves so they are not put on the next plane and sent back to Kiev or St. Petersburg or anywhere else where they might be in danger is very important. We try to put sandbags of protection around them and to say we will help you, we will give you a hand and assistance, and that is what this legislation does.

There are many other aspects to it. It is a comprehensive bill. We have had three hearings in my subcommittee on this issue, and we heard from the victims themselves, who talked about how even the NGOs, like Miramed in St. Petersburg, which is out there on the cutting edge trying to help these women, are under tremendous duress by the Mafia, as well as very much underfunded.

We want all of the world's governments, especially those that are countries of origination, to do all that they can to mitigate and hopefully end this egregious practice.

Division B, the Violence against Women Act, provides about \$3.3 billion over 5 years, more than double the current programs, to increase law enforcement and expand shelter space and rehab programs for battered and abused women.

There are many, many important grants articulated in the legislation, like the \$140 million for Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Grants, to ensure that our young women on the college campuses are protected to the maximum degree possible, and then \$60 million for the Safe Havens Project; and, very significantly, the money for the shelters is increased by \$375 million to a total of \$875 million to protect battered women and their children.

□ 1230

There is also legislation, as my colleagues heard, dealing with Aimee's Law. Aimee's Law passed overwhelming in this House. It ought to be part of this package, and it will hopefully prevent those who have high rates of recidivism, the rapists, the murderers so they do not get out early to

recommit these crimes, because we know that there are thousands of those who commit the crimes upon their release.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the rule, and then I hope for support of the underlying conference report.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are many people to thank this morning. I add my appreciation to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for his leadership and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and to the ranking member and chairman and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

This bill has many good elements. I would argue that we have thrown out a fishnet and gotten some elements that I think deserve a lot of consideration, and I wish we had not done that. I rise to support the concepts in this bill and would hope that we would be able to fix some of the elements that need not be included.

Particularly, let me appreciate the battered immigrant provisions that have come from the legislation that the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and myself have sponsored, H.R. 3083. We had a hearing on the bill in the committee that I serve on, the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims. And I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my chairman.

I say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), I had the unfortunate privilege of visiting in Bangladesh, women who were battered, as well as women who were sold into slavery, sold for sexual activities, and see the children, see the abuse, the depression, the mutilation, the injuries that they suffered. So this bill is extremely important.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Committee on International Relations and all of those who worked on the human rights aspect to stop that. It is also important to recognize that VAWA that gives rights to American women finally will reach a point where we can see it reauthorized and have the centers open, protect the children who have seen abuse in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the conference committee for putting in the elements dealing with battered immigrant women, because without those elements, VAWA did not cover immigrant women; in particular, we would find situations where the abuser would hold it over the head of the immigrant woman that you can stay here all the time and I can abuse you, but you will not have the rights to access relief under VAWA.

Take, for example, the idea of an abuser saying to the abused that I will keep you from being a citizen or legal

resident, because all you came to do was to come here to this country with your children and seek to be a legal resident, and, therefore, I will punish you and I will continue to abuse you.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified that elements that will allow for self-petition are included in this legislation and that an abused woman can as well seek that.

Finally, let me say that I hope we can improve some elements of this bill. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today in my capacity as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims. Inside this report is the agreement authorizing VAWA, and some very important provisions that deal with Battered Immigrant Women. I joined with Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY and Congresswoman CONNIE MORELLA to sponsor H.R. 3083, The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 1999, would provide much needed access to battered immigrant victims of domestic violence. Fortunately, many of the provisions of this bill were included in this conference report.

These provisions are important because but for the failure of citizens or permanent resident abusers to submit immigration petitions for their immigrant spouses and children, the beneficiaries of the Battered Immigrant provisions would already have lawful immigration status through a family-based visa petition.

A citizen or permanent resident batterer often manipulates such misconceptions by convincing his victim that he will prevail in court because he is a male and he has more money. Moreover, a batterer often uses his immigration status against his victim as a tool of control, threatening to report her to INS or refusing or withdrawing immigration petitions that would grant her status.

I am relieved to stand before the House in order that we might be able to consider legislation that will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) before the close of the 106th Congress. This act was first passed in 1994, and it marked a turning point in our nation's response to family violence, offering states a comprehensive means of addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Although VAWA has contributed to a decline in the rates of domestic violence, there is still much work to be done.

We know that more than 3 million women have been abused since Congress began considering reauthorization of the VAWA in 1999. If Congress does not act by October 13th, VAWA will be lost to those women and their children who are victimized by family violence. The sad fact is that the victims of violence are not limited to women and in some cases men, but it can also extend to their children. It is estimated that 9,000 children, in our nation, witness family violence everyday. Each year, just about 3.3 million children witness their mothers or female caretakers being abused. Further, forty to sixty percent of men who abuse women also abuse children.

Family violence also extends to non-married women. Young women, between the age of 16 and 24 in dating relationships experience the highest rate of domestic violence and sexual assault. While an average of 28 percent of high school and college students experience

the highest rate of domestic violence and sexual assault. Twenty-six percent of pregnant teens reported being physically abused by their boyfriends—about half of them said the battering began or intensified after he learned of her pregnancy.

We need to expand VAWA and increase funding to support it. In the last six months, calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline have increased from 8,000 to 13,000 calls a month. More women and children are seeking the safety of shelters, stretching shelter resources to the limits. Protections for young women, who are at the greatest risk of dating violence and sexual assault, are also severely lacking.

This bill includes provisions similar to the House-passed H.R. 1248 to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act for five years. The House bill authorized more than \$3 billion in FY 2001 through FY 2005 for programs to combat violence against women, including battered women's shelters and services, sexual assault prevention programs and education and training for judges.

The separate VAWA legislation has been merged with H.R. 3244, the Conference Report on International Sex Trafficking, a bill intended to direct the Justice, Labor and Health and Human Services departments to expand assistance to victims of severe forms of trafficking in the United States. The measure also allows the Justice Department to make grants to local governments and non-profit organizations to expand services for victims of trafficking. Most of our nation's citizens may still believe that the trafficking of human beings ended with the Fourteenth Amendment to our Nation's Constitution, which outlawed the practice of slavery.

This conference report also includes the bill H.R. 2031, which addresses concerns regarding the sale of alcohol over the Internet. The conference agreement grants state attorneys general authority to bring a civil action in federal courts to enforce state laws that outlaw the direct sale of alcohol over the Internet. The provision is similar to the House-passed H.R. 2031, and to Senate provisions in its version of the juvenile justice bill (H.R. 1501).

In addition this conference report also includes H.R. 894, titled Aimee's Law, that requires a state that releases a violent sexual offender who commits a similar crime in another state to reimburse the second state for costs related to the incarceration, prosecution and apprehension of the individual. This provision is similar to provisions in the House version of the juvenile justice bill (H.R. 1501).

This law provides that whenever someone convicted of murder, rape, or a dangerous sexual offense is released from prison and commits another such offense in another state, the state from which the offender was released will be liable for the cost of apprehension, prosecution, incarceration, and the victim's damages (i.e., up to \$100,000 for each victim).

The Attorney General is also directed to pay these costs and damages from the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Funds which the state of origin. The costs and damage provisions, which are paid out of federal law enforcement assistance funds, are designed to leverage states into passing tougher sentences regarding these crimes or risk losing federal funds.

I have concerns that this bill is premised on a "Sense of Congress" that anyone convicted

of these crimes should be sentenced to death or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Before taking such drastic actions, I believe that we need to better define the criminal offenses of which one may be convicted. I suggest that we work to narrow the definition of which crimes trigger punishment.

However, I realize, as do most Americans that prevention is the best strategy and if this type of law would provide the appropriate disincentive for potential murderers or rapists, I must also recognize this benefit.

As expressed in the Subcommittee Crime hearings, this law, under the definition of Dangerous Sexual Offense in H.R. 894, does not require any age difference between victim and offender on which to base an assumption of predation.

Consequently, unlike other laws that make no such distinction, there is more potential for this bill to have an impact on the sexual abuse of American children.

As a parent, I sympathize with proponents of this bill that want adequate punishment against those convicted of sexual assault, rape or murder. As a mother, a member of Congress and founder of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I cannot in good faith support the maintenance of laws that create loopholes for sexual predators.

Every 19 seconds a girl or woman is raped, every 70 seconds a child is molested and every 70 seconds a child or adult is murdered. Yet, despite these horrific statistics, the average time served in prison for rape is 5 years and the average time served in prison for molesting a child is less than 4 years.

We cannot tolerate the perpetuation of violent crimes against women and children any longer! This bill provides states the financial incentive to enact effective legislation that will keep repeat violent offenders behind bars.

We cannot allow states to continue to act irresponsibly in the prosecution of sexual predators. We all need to work together to help spare families the needless tragedy of having to put to rest their children because the state failed to effectively prosecute a sexual predator.

I am horrified by the story of Aimee Willard, for which this law is named. I hope that no family will ever have to suffer through such a tragedy again, but unfortunately I know that this is not true.

I ask that my colleagues put aside their politics and think about the children and families that have been affected because of a lack of adequate enforcement of the laws. Our children need protection now.

Last, this conference report also includes language intended to address the needs of the Victims of Terrorism by allowing victims of terrorism or their families in the United States to recover judgments against countries listed by the State Department as sponsors of terrorism. (Currently, the frozen assets of nations that allegedly support terrorism are protected from U.S. court judgments if the president declares it in the national security interest to leave them untouched.) Under the agreement, the president would have the authority to differentiate, on an asset-by-asset basis, the premises of foreign diplomatic missions, but not commercial property or rental proceeds from diplomatic property eligible to be protected.

I would hope that we will remember that one of the most deadly terrorist attacks to occur in

this country was not caused by a foreign government or international group, but by people who thought of themselves as American patriots, I am referring to the Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 167 men, women and infants. I applaud any effort to make those responsible for terrorism, which results in loss of life or property civilly and criminally responsible for their actions. However, I would caution not to join those who believe that by virtue of the fact that someone is born outside of the United States that some how their act of terrorism is much more grievous than one that is carried out by a fellow American citizen. For this reason, I support this effort, but I would also encourage this body to make those of our citizens convicted to terrorist acts be equally held criminally and civilly liable for their actions.

All of the measures, which are included in this conference report are important to the American people, it is unfortunate that they could not have been considered individually.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), the author of Aimee's Law.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the author of the bill here on the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for all of his support for Aimee's Law.

I would like to thank him for putting together such a wonderful piece of legislation in the first place, because this is all about victims. It is about victims who are slave traded. It is about victims, women who are harmed across the country in many, many different ways. It is about little children who are victims.

I would like to speak specifically about Aimee's Law. I would like to go back down to memory lane 3 years ago when I introduced this bill. I had a dinner with several victims rights advocates: Fred Goldman whose son Ron was murdered, with Mary Vincent who was kidnapped when she was 15 years old while she was walking along the road. She was raped and had her arms chopped off. She walked for 2 miles to safety and survived to testify against her perpetrator who, by the way, was let out of prison and then killed a mother of 5.

I remember Mika Moulton whose little boy was stabbed 66 times and left in a shallow grave; that in and of itself is heinous enough, but the fact that this boy, this young man that did this to her son was let out of prison for killing a 5-year-old girl and raping her with a stick ought to make your blood curdle.

The fact is 14,000 rapes, murders and molestations occur every year, and they are 100 percent preventable. We heard some people on the other side of the aisle who have some heartburn about this. Let us make government be accountable.

These are not just statistics. These are people who are dying. These are people being raped. These are children being molested. We have an opportunity to do something about it to make the States be accountable if they let someone out of prison who poses a threat to society, then there should be

a price to pay, and that is what this is about.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) for his work, and I just wanted to ask a question in colloquy. Am I correct that it is the intent of the Congress that Aimee's Law shall apply prospectively; that is, only if offenders whose first sentence for a covered offense occurred on or after the effective date of this law, which is January 1, 2002?

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, as it is currently drafted, that is my understanding, yes.

Mr. CONYERS. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER).

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, at this time of day, all across this great country from San Diego to New York, from Wisconsin to Louisiana, our parents, our grandparents, our aunts and uncles are concerned about the same thing, and that is the safety of our children in our schools; whether those children are in classrooms or playgrounds, inner-city or rural schools, our parents share this concern about their safety.

I want to point out, I hope, a non-controversial part of this bill and salute the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), for a provision that mirrors a bill that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) and I introduced called the Secure Our Schools Act, that will provide \$30 million each year for 3 years for a total of \$90 million to help our schools be safe and secure, especially in light of the gun violence that has taken place in our schools over the last 3 years.

The beauty of this bill is that this provides Federal resources to our local schools but lets the local school determine what to spend this money on. Should they spend it on a metal detector? Yes, they could. And could they spend it on a handheld metal device for security? Yes, they could. Security training for teachers, police officers, students? Yes, that is an allowable expense.

These are competitive grants issued for the Department of Justice and the Attorney General to help our parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles make sure that they feel good about the safety and security of our schools. This is a good partnership for our government to enter into. I am proud of

this provision and proud to support this provision in this law.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 3244 and most of the provisions of this conference report. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member, for their diligence in crafting this report, which includes several important provisions that will literally save the lives of women and girls around the world.

When I had the privilege of traveling with the President to India, I saw little girls who had been sold into the sex industry. No child should be subjected to such horrors. We know that the Violence Against Women Act has saved lives and helped to rebuild even more. And I am grateful that my provisions to expand legal protections for battered immigrant women and children and to fund transitional housing for domestic abuse victims were included in the report.

The 1996 immigration laws made some changes that forced many immigrant women to remain in dangerous situations, putting themselves and their children at great risk. Today we have the opportunity to end this injustice. With the passage of this conference report, immigrant women will be empowered to move away from their abusers. They will have the additional legal protections along with access to critical transitional housing services that will enable them to alleviate the abuse and break the cycle of violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this conference report.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. SLAUGHTER) for her leadership and yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule because it couples many unrelated nongermane provisions to two underlying bills that are tremendously important, the Violence Against Women Act and the antitrafficking bill. These bills will literally save lives, and they have been a top priority this year of the bipartisan women's caucus.

In this month alone, approximately 75,000 women will become victims of beatings, and in many cases their children will be attacked as well. The Violence Against Women Act has been,

and must, remain a powerful tool in the fight against domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. Domestic violence is the number one health risk for women between the ages of 15 and 44, and close to a third of all the women murdered in America are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.

This conference report authorizes more than \$3 billion over the next 5 years to combat violence in our families and homes and schools through September 2000, from the first VAWA grant. My home State of New York received over \$97 million in funding, but you cannot measure the value of that funding unless you look into the eyes of a child who has witnessed the violence in the home. There is no cost too great for preventing this tragedy.

The Violence Against Women Act will do many good things. It has a hot line, and in New York City alone, in 1999, over 169,000 calls were received. I am very pleased that two provisions were added to the bill from my Older American's Protection from Violence Act, H.R. 2590.

My bill specifically allows VAWA programs to help older and disabled women, and they were included in this bill, specifically a grant program to address domestic violence among older women and the disabled. It is a proud day. I compliment all who have worked to make this pass to stop the Violence Against Women Act.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me remind my colleagues that this conference report includes essential provisions in our fight to halt the trafficking of individuals, end family violence, deter terrorism and fight crime.

The House has already passed these initiatives separately. This conference report will allow us to send this package to the President for his signature. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the straightforward rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 28, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

YEAS—356

Abercrombie	Ehrlich	Lewis (KY)
Aderholt	Emerson	Linder
Allen	Engel	Lipinski
Andrews	English	LoBiondo
Archer	Etheridge	Lowey
Armey	Evans	Lucas (KY)
Baca	Everett	Lucas (OK)
Bachus	Ewing	Luther
Baird	Farr	Maloney (CT)
Baldacci	Fattah	Manzullo
Baldwin	Filner	Markey
Barcia	Fletcher	Martinez
Barr	Foley	Mascara
Barrett (NE)	Ford	Matsui
Barrett (WI)	Fossella	McCarthy (MO)
Bartlett	Fowler	McCarthy (NY)
Bass	Frank (MA)	McCrery
Becerra	Frelinghuysen	McDermott
Bentsen	Frost	McGovern
Bereuter	Gallegly	McHugh
Berkley	Ganske	McInnis
Berry	Gejdenson	McIntyre
Biggert	Gekas	McKeon
Bilbray	Gephardt	McKinney
Billrakis	Gibbons	McNulty
Bishop	Gilchrest	Meehan
Blagojevich	Gillmor	Menendez
Bliley	Gilman	Mica
Blunt	Gonzalez	Millender-
Boehlert	Goode	McDonald
Boehner	Goodlatte	Miller, Gary
Bonilla	Goodling	Miller, George
Bonior	Graham	Mink
Bono	Granger	Moakley
Borski	Green (TX)	Mollohan
Boswell	Green (WI)	Moore
Boucher	Greenwood	Moran (KS)
Boyd	Gutierrez	Moran (VA)
Brady (PA)	Gutknecht	Morella
Brady (TX)	Hall (OH)	Myrick
Brown (FL)	Hall (TX)	Nadler
Brown (OH)	Hastings (FL)	Napolitano
Bryant	Hastings (WA)	Neal
Burr	Hayes	Ney
Burton	Hayworth	Northup
Buyer	Herger	Norwood
Calvert	Hill (IN)	Nussle
Camp	Hill (MT)	Obey
Canady	Hilleary	Olver
Cannon	Hilliard	Ortiz
Capps	Hinchey	Owens
Capuano	Hinojosa	Oxley
Cardin	Hobson	Packard
Castle	Hoefel	Pallone
Chabot	Hoekstra	Pascrell
Chambliss	Holden	Pastor
Chenoweth-Hage	Holt	Pease
Clement	Hooley	Peterson (MN)
Clyburn	Horn	Petri
Coble	Hostettler	Phelps
Coburn	Houghton	Pickering
Collins	Hoyer	Pitts
Combest	Hunter	Pomeroy
Condit	Hyde	Porter
Cook	Inslee	Portman
Cooksey	Istook	Price (NC)
Costello	Jackson (IL)	Pryce (OH)
Cox	Jefferson	Quinn
Coyne	John	Radanovich
Cramer	Johnson (CT)	Rahall
Crane	Johnson, E. B.	Ramstad
Crowley	Johnson, Sam	Regula
Cubin	Jones (NC)	Reynolds
Cummings	Kanjorski	Riley
Cunningham	Kaptur	Rivers
Danner	Kasich	Rodriguez
Davis (FL)	Kelly	Roemer
Davis (IL)	Kennedy	Rogan
Davis (VA)	Kildee	Rogers
Deal	Kilpatrick	Rohrabacher
DeFazio	Kind (WI)	Ros-Lehtinen
Delahunt	Kingston	Rothman
DeLauro	Klecza	Roukema
DeLay	Knollenberg	Roybal-Allard
DeMint	Kucinich	Royce
Deutsch	Kuykendall	Rush
Dickey	LaFalce	Ryan (WI)
Dingell	LaHood	Ryun (KS)
Dixon	Lampson	Sabo
Doggett	Lantos	Salmon
Doyle	Largent	Sanchez
Dreier	Larson	Sandlin
Duncan	Latham	Sawyer
Dunn	Leach	Saxton
Edwards	Levin	Scarborough
Ehlers	Lewis (CA)	Schaffer

Schakowsky	Stearns	Udall (CO)
Sensenbrenner	Stenholm	Udall (NM)
Serrano	Stump	Upton
Sessions	Stupak	Velazquez
Shadegg	Sununu	Visclosky
Shaw	Sweeney	Vitter
Shays	Tancredo	Walden
Sherman	Tanner	Walsh
Sherwood	Tauscher	Wamp
Shimkus	Tauzin	Watkins
Shows	Taylor (MS)	Watts (OK)
Simpson	Taylor (NC)	Weiner
Sisisky	Terry	Weldon (FL)
Skeen	Thomas	Weller
Skelton	Thornberry	Wexler
Slaughter	Thune	Weygand
Smith (MI)	Thurman	Whitfield
Smith (NJ)	Tiahrt	Wicker
Smith (WA)	Tierney	Wilson
Snyder	Toomey	Wolf
Souder	Towns	Wynn
Spratt	Trafcant	Young (AK)
Stabenow	Turner	Young (FL)

NAYS—28

Clayton	LaTourette	Pelosi
Conyers	Lee	Pombo
DeGette	Lofgren	Sanders
Dooley	Maloney (NY)	Sanford
Doolittle	Minge	Scott
Gordon	Murtha	Thompson (CA)
Hulshof	Nethercutt	Watt (NC)
Jackson-Lee	Oberstar	Woolsey
(TX)	Ose	Wu
Jones (OH)	Payne	

NOT VOTING—49

Ackerman	Hefley	Pickett
Baker	Hutchinson	Rangel
Ballenger	Isakson	Reyes
Barton	Jenkins	Shuster
Berman	King (NY)	Smith (TX)
Blumenauer	Klink	Spence
Callahan	Kolbe	Stark
Campbell	Lazio	Strickland
Carson	Lewis (GA)	Talent
Clay	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Diaz-Balart	McIntosh	Vento
Dicks	Meek (FL)	Waters
Eshoo	Meeks (NY)	Waxman
Forbes	Metcalf	Weldon (PA)
Franks (NJ)	Miller (FL)	Wise
Goss	Paul	
Hansen	Peterson (PA)	

□ 1302

Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. WU and Ms. PELOSI changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 613, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3244) to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to House Resolution 613, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 5, 2000 at page H8855.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 30 minute.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report on H.R. 3244.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, after consulting with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking member of the other committee, that we cut our time in half, all of us, because I have been besieged by Members who have commitments and plane tickets; and that is the only reason that I would do that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time allotted to all of the committees be cut in half.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the time be limited to 15 minutes for the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and 15 minutes for the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON)?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 3244, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

I was proud to cosponsor this measure. I am pleased that we have been able to steer this important measure all the way through the process and on towards the President's desk.

I especially want to commend two Members of our committee's leadership who have made this legislation possible. I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, who is the lead sponsor of this measure and a tireless proponent. He was joined in refining the legislation, pushing it through the process by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the distinguished ranking Democratic member of our committee.

As noted in the legislation, millions of people, primarily women and children, are trafficked every year across international borders for sexual and other exploitive purposes. Approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States for such purposes every year.

The conference report on this measure contains a number of provisions designed to make certain that our government uses its influence around the world to stop this trafficking of human beings. In addition, it enhances some protections on the U.S. law for victims of trafficking in our country.

Although the administration initially opposed the legislation, I am pleased they have now considered their position and ultimately came to recognize the necessity for this measure.

The conferees on the measure were pleased to incorporate a number of other pending measures into the conference report.

Most of these additions have greatly strengthened the conference report. Three of these additions are bills that I strongly support, and I am pleased to be able to help send them to the President's desk.

The Violence Against Women's Act, Aimee's Law, and the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act are all included in this conference report, and all are important measures that are overwhelmingly supported by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 3244, the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000."

I was proud to cosponsor H.R. 3244, and am pleased that we have been able to steer this important measure all the way through the legislative process and on toward the President's desk.

I especially want to commend two members of our Committee whose leadership has made this legislation possible. The distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH was the lead sponsor of this measure and a tireless proponent of it. He was joined in refining the legislation and pushing it through the legislative process by the distinguished Ranking Democratic Member of our Committee, the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. GEJDENSON.

As noted in the legislation, millions of people, primarily women and children, are trafficked every year across international borders for sexual or other exploitive purposes. Approximately 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States for such purposes every year.

The conference report on H.R. 3244 contains a number of provisions designed to ensure that the United States Government uses its influence around the world to stop this trafficking in human beings. In addition, it enhances the protections under U.S. law for victims of trafficking in the United States.

The legislation establishes minimum standards that should be achieved in countries with significant trafficking problems in order for them to begin eliminating trafficking. The bill authorizes U.S. foreign assistance to help countries meet these minimum standards, and provides for sanctions against countries that fail to meet the standards. In the typical case this threat should provide a powerful incentive to countries with trafficking problems to meet the minimum standards.

Within the United States, the legislation permits certain victims of trafficking to remain in the country so that, among other things, they can assist in the prosecution of traffickers. Victims of severe forms of trafficking are also made eligible for special programs set up for crime victims. The legislation also strengthens the criminal penalties for trafficking under U.S. law in a number of critical respects.

Taken together, this is a solidly-crafted piece of legislation that addresses an urgent moral and humanitarian problem. Although the

Administration initially opposed the legislation, I am pleased that they reconsidered their position and ultimately came to recognize the necessity for this measure.

The conferees on H.R. 3244 were pleased to incorporate a number of other pending measures into the conference report.

Most of these additions have greatly strengthened the conference report.

Three of these additions are bills that I have strongly supported and that I am pleased to be able to help send to the President's desk.

The Violence Against Women Act, Aimee's Law, and the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act are all included in this conference report, and all are important measures that are overwhelmingly supported in the House of Representatives.

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time; and pending that, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of my time be controlled by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, the principle sponsor of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield half of my time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with some reluctance to support the conference report because I wanted a clean bill concerning the Trafficking Victims and Violence Against Women's Act, both of which passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

So the bill continues funding for important Violence Against Women Act programs such as enforcement and prosecution grants to combat violence against women, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, battered women's shelters and services. But it also takes important preliminary steps to address dating violence.

Now, we would not be here without the organizations that work with us in the Congress, and I just wanted to get into the RECORD: NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Task Force to End Domestic Violence, and the Feminists Majority.

Now, the legislation, I must say, does not go far enough on VAWA, and we are going to continue this struggle. It leaves out many critical programs that were in the House-passed bill. For example, we have not allowed the provisions to more adequately fund rape prevention and education programs, civil legal assistance and STOP grants.

There is less money allocated to victims services.

The conference falls short. But the bill does the special-interest bidding for alcohol wholesalers and effectively allows the shutdown of e-commerce by wineries. What, I ask, does this have to do with the victims of sex trafficking? Answer: nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with some reluctance to support the Conference Report. I had hoped that we would be voting on a clean bill concerning the Trafficking Victims and Violence Against Women Act, both of which passed the Houses with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, something dire happened on the way to the altar.

Whenever the Republican majority wants to pass legislation to protect women, they will only do it half way. On the one hand, the bill before us continues funding for important VAWA programs such as law enforcement and prosecution grants to combat violence against women, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, battered women's shelters and services. The bill also takes important preliminary steps to address dating violence. For these positive things, I would like to particularly note the hard work of Leslie Orloff, Janice Kaguyutan, Pat Reuss and Jackie Payne of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, Julie Fulcher of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and all the people at the National Task Force to End Domestic Violence.

On the other hand, I must report that the legislation does not go far enough on VAWA, leaving out many of the critical programs in the House passed bill. For example, the Majority refused to include the more generous House VAWA provisions to more adequately fund rape prevention and education programs, civil legal assistance and STOP grants. I am also disturbed that less money is allocated to victims' services, the scope of civil legal assistance to be offered is narrowed and the types of organizations that qualify to provide assistance is limited.

The conference report also falls short with regard to the victims of sex trafficking. The bill still contains a 5,000 cap on the number of victims eligible to receive a "T" visa, despite the House's motion to instruct the conferees to remove the cap. Moreover, parents of victims are not eligible for derivative immigration status despite clear evidence that the traffickers will threaten to injure or kill the parents living abroad to prevent the victim from assisting in a criminal prosecution.

If this weren't enough, this bill does the special interest bidding for the alcohol wholesalers, effectively allowing the shut down of e-commerce by wineries. What, I ask, does this special interest legislation have to do with victims of sex trafficking. Nothing. It's just a vehicle to do a special favor for that special interest.

And the bill incorporates Aimee's law which the National Governors' Association and National Conference of State Legislatures both conclude "is onerous, impractical, and unworkable." Chalk it up for another bill that aborts the legislative process. The Judiciary Committee has had plenty of time to make such a proposal workable for governors, but the Committee has failed again to do so.

Finally, I must note that this process is an example of how legislation should not be con-

ducted. On almost every provision, House Democrats were given take it or leave proposals from the Republicans, and there was virtually no deliberation by the members. That's a pretty bad show.

So, I will vote yes today, but I would hope we could do a better job of protecting battered women and victims of sex trafficking in the future.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the distinguished chairman of the full Committee on the Judiciary.

(Mr. HYDE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this conference report. As this body is aware, it includes a number of important bipartisan pieces of legislation that together advance the cause of justice for crime victims and truly offer the prospect of improving public safety.

Among the many items of legislation that are in this conference report, the Violence Against Women Act, which is the product of so many hours of work by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), is included; and I am very proud that it is, along with several other bills, the Rothman bill.

I rise in strong support of this conference report on H.R. 3244. As this body is aware, it includes a number of important, bi-partisan pieces of legislation that, together, advance the cause of justice for crime victims and truly offer the prospect of improving public safety.

The underlying bill, the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000," addresses one of the enduring and pernicious forms of slavery that still blights our time. While Lincoln may have freed the slaves in America, there are those today who engage in other forms of slavery on persons of many colors. Throughout the world there are criminals who smuggle persons into this country, principally women and children, in order to force them into sexual slavery, or to work in sweatshops for years in order to pay off the exorbitant fees charged by their traffickers for their illegal entry.

This conference report will prevent and punish sex trafficking and other forms of trafficking in human beings. As such, it is another step forward in the full and complete enforcement of the anti-slavery amendments to our Constitution. Twelve years ago, the Supreme Court held that our existing anti-slavery statutes only prohibited the use of force or the abuse of the legal process to force a person into involuntary servitude. But the sad fact is that those who traffic in human beings today also use deceptive schemes and other lies, together with threats of force to family members in a home country, to coerce the victim into labor. This bill will now punish that criminal conduct. And it will fill another gap in the law by punishing, for the first time, those who traffic in human beings in order to provide the supply of labor to those who will enslave them once they arrive on our shores. The legislation will also substantially increase the penalties for the existing involuntary servitude laws already on the books.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to do all of these things to put an end to all forms of slavery that continue to exist in our country and our world.

Importantly, the conference report also includes the "Violence Against Women Act of 2000," which this body passed last Tuesday by a vote of 315 to 3. The "Violence Against Women Act of 2000," strengthens the ability of local communities to respond effectively to the national problem of violence against women, in all of its tragic forms, including domestic battery, stalking, rape and murder. This legislation continues and builds on our national commitment to support comprehensive, community-based efforts to keep these crime victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

The VAWA legislation reauthorizes funding for state and local law enforcement agencies as well as for education, prevention, and outreach programs. This legislation ensures that VAWA programs will continue to aid the prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases across the country and increases victim services like domestic violence shelters for women. Additional initiatives have been authorized aimed at preventing domestic violence and sexual assault against older and disabled individuals, meeting the civil legal assistance and transitional housing needs of victims, and establishing a task force to minimize overlapping federal efforts to address domestic violence. In short, the legislation is a balanced and comprehensive effort to enhance the ability of states and localities to prevent and combat violence against women.

I again want to salute the gentlewoman from Maryland, Mrs. MORELLA, for her leadership on this issue and her tireless efforts to ensure that this legislation becomes law.

This conference report also includes a compromise version of the "Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act," which is supported by the Administration. This legislation ensures that American victims of international terrorism will be able to receive their judgements from any blocked assets held in the United States. At the same time, the legislation provides the President waiver authority to protect national security. As a result of this legislation, the Secretary of the Treasury will finally satisfy claims brought under the Anti-terrorism Act of 1996 of victims who hold final judgements.

This bill also includes a provision known as Aimee's law, which will hold states responsible when they release a convicted felon from their prisons who then travels to another state and commits a crime. Under this provision, first introduced by the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. SALMON, a state that releases a felon from its prisons who then commits a crime in another state will be required to reimburse that state for the costs it incurs in prosecuting and incarcerating that criminal. This provision has twice before passed this House, mostly recently this past July, when it passed by voice vote.

The conference report also includes the "Secure Our Schools Act," which authorizes \$30 million a year for the next three years for States and local governments to improve school security. Funds can be used for measures that deter crime, such as metal detectors and lighting, or other programs that offer the prospect of significantly improving public safety.

Finally, the conference report includes the "Twenty-First Amendment Enforcement Act," aimed at cracking down on the problem of illegal interstate shipments of alcohol. It does so by permitting States Attorneys General to enter federal district court to enjoin any shipping or transporting of alcohol into their state

in violation of state law. In short, this balanced provision empowers states to ensure compliance with their own laws regulating the sale and consumption of alcohol.

The text of S. 577, the "21st Amendment Enforcement Act." S. 577 is the counterpart to H.R. 2031, which was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on July 20, 1999, and passed by the House on August 3, 1999. This legislation would grant federal court jurisdiction to actions for injunctive relief brought by state attorneys' general seeking to enforce their state liquor importation and transportation laws.

Importantly, the bill reflects the respectful comity that exists between the federal government and the states. In this bill, Congress is granting to the states the privilege of using the forum of the federal courts for limited jurisdictional purposes—so, the legislation is procedural in nature. Congress is acting under its powers to establish the lower federal courts and to define their jurisdiction. Congress is not pre-judging or endorsing the validity of the various state liquor statutes.

The sole remedy available under the bill is injunctive relief—no damages, no civil fines or criminal penalties can be imposed by the federal courts under S. 577. When the Senate Judiciary Committee considered this measure in May, it adopted a substitute offered by chairman HATCH which included a number of the due process protections which were added to the bill when it was considered in the House Judiciary Committee. So, for example, the bill requires prior notice to the adverse party or parties, applies traditional proof requirements for preliminary injunctions and requires that a hearing be held before the issuance of any preliminary or permanent injunction occurs. A State must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation of State law has taken place or is taking place.

Additionally, Chairman HATCH's substitute includes language in subsection 2(e), entitled "Rules of construction," that states that the legislation "shall be construed only to extend the jurisdiction of the Federal courts in connection with State law that is a valid exercise of power vested in the States" under the 21st amendment, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, including interpretations "in conjunction with other provisions of the Constitution." Federal jurisdiction is also limited to state law that is a valid exercise of state power under the first section of the Webb-Kenyon Act, as that section is interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. Further, S. 577 is not to be construed as granting the states any additional power.

This rules of construction language is an implicit recognition of the Supreme Court decisions made over the last 35 years holding that the 21st Amendment cannot be read in isolation from other provisions contained in the U.S. Constitution. *Hostetter v. Idlewild Bon Voyage Liquor Corporation*, 377 U.S. 324 (1964) (commerce clause); *Capital Cities Cable, Inc. v. Crisp*, 467 U.S. 691, 712 (1984) (supremacy clause); *Larkin v. Grendel's Den, Inc.*, 459 U.S. 116, 122 (1982) (establishment clause); *Department of Revenue v. James Beam Co.*, 377 U.S. 341 (1964) (export-import clause); *Craig v. Boren*, 429 U.S. 190, 209 (1976) (equal protection); *Bacchus Imports, Ltd. v. Dias*, 468 U.S. 263, 275 (1984) (commerce clause); *44 Liquormart, Inc. v. Rhode Island*, 517 U.S. 484, 516 (1996) (First Amendment). Again, in enacting this jurisdic-

tional statute, Congress is not passing on the advisability or the legal validity of the various state laws regulating alcoholic beverages. Whether a particular state law on this subject is a valid exercise of state power is, and will continue to be, a matter for the courts to decide.

In my view, S. 577 takes a balanced and fair approach. The 21st Amendment Enforcement Act will assist the states in the enforcement of liquor laws that are genuinely about encouraging temperance. The courts will also continue to recognize the inherent police powers of the states to prohibit underage drinking. At the same time, this legislation preserves Congressional neutrality as to whether or not a particular state liquor law is constitutionally valid and should be enforced by the federal courts.

Opponents of this language believe that it undercuts the basis of the legislation. The legislation itself is titled as an Act, "divesting intoxicating liquors of their interstate character in certain cases." Thus, it is the purpose of the Act to, under certain circumstances, "burden" interstate commerce. To them declare in the same Act that it does not "impose an unconstitutional burden" on that commerce is, according to the opponents arguments, a signal of Congressional intent to nullify the actual purpose of the Act and to invite litigation challenging all State enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important conference report, offering the prospect of real solutions to real problems. I urge its passage.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), all my partners on the other side. I thank all the staff tactically on my side, Mr. Yeo and Mr. Abramowitz and Alethea Gordon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report on H.R. 3244, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, and yield myself as much time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement on H.R. 3244 represents landmark legislation that not only seeks to put a stop to the heinous practices of modern-day slavery, but also addresses the millions of American women who face violence in their lives each year. At so many junctures over the past months, the bill appeared headed towards the very full dustbin on the 106th Congress, but with tremendous bipartisan work both in this House and in the other body, I am happy to report that we are reporting a good bill to the House of Representatives. I want to congratulate Representative CHRIS SMITH and his staff for their arduous work on this legislation. This is the way legislation on foreign policy should work, where members from both sides of the aisle and in both chambers working together to address in a real, concrete manner, human rights abuses that effect the United States, nations around the world, and millions of people, particularly vulnerable women and children.

The original bill was intended to stop the trafficking in persons throughout the world. The U.S. Government has reported that up to 50,000 people, mostly women and children, are trafficked into the United States alone. It is simply intolerable that as we begin the 21st

century, human beings are being trafficked into modern day slavery, including thousands of women and children trafficked into the United States each year. According to human rights organizations, in a typical case, a woman is recruited with promises of a good job in another country or province, and lacking better options at home, she agrees to migrate. There are also cases in which women are lured with false marriage offers or vacation invitations, in which children are bartered by their parents for a cash advance and/or promises of future earnings, or in which victims are abducted outright. Next an agent makes arrangements for the woman's travel and job placement, obtaining the necessary travel documentation, contacting employers or job brokers, and hiring an escort to accompany the woman on her trip. Once the arrangements have been made, the woman is escorted to her destination and delivered to an employer or to another intermediary who brokers conditions of her employment. Many women learn they have been deceived about the nature of the work they will do, most have been lied to about the financial arrangements and conditions of their employment, and all find themselves in coercive and abusive situations from which escape is both difficult and dangerous.

In New York, hearing impaired men and women were recruited from Mexico and brutalized into selling trinkets on the street.

In the Carolinas, teenage girls were held in slavery and forced to work as prostitutes.

In Chicago, traffickers met Russian and Latvian women at the airport, seized their passports and return tickets, beat them and threatened to kill their families if they refused to dance nude in a nightclub.

In Florida, traffickers used alcohol and drugs to lure field workers to isolated locations and hold them under cruel conditions of debt bondage.

In New Jersey, a Bangladeshi woman was forced to work 18 to 20 hours a day, seven days a week, and after receiving no pay for 3 months, was forced to leave upon asking for her backpay and given only for her entire work \$370, amounting to about 25 cents an hour. She was also forced to shovel snow in the sandals she arrived in, and when she got sick, they refused to take her to a doctor. They told her not to go out on her own, that the police were surely waiting to arrest her.

In California, a Thai boy who had contracted AIDS through his prostitute mother was used as a decoy to try to traffick a woman into the United States, trying to make immigration officials believe that the two adults accompanying him were his parents.

Right here in Washington, D.C., we heard cases of a woman who was paid virtually nothing and then sexually abused and refused any medical treatment.

One of the most shocking aspects of this problem is that our laws often punish the victims, not the international criminal syndicates perpetrating these abuses. We need to reverse this situation. A short time ago, no one was discussing the trafficking issue. Now, the Clinton Administration is negotiating an international protocol to end trafficking in human beings, and the Congress is doing its part by passing comprehensive legislation.

A broad coalition from across the political and ideological spectrum helped move this issue to the top of the national agenda. They were determined to have the United States

serve as an example for the rest of the world in stopping trafficking everywhere. By our action, we can encourage other countries to do more, and several countries have already indicated that they are looking at U.S. legislation as a model for their own response.

The legislation reported out of the conference in some ways combines many of the best features of the bills passed by the House and the other chamber, where the effort was led by Senators BROWNBACK and WELLSTONE. It provides for prevention of trafficking here and abroad, protection of victims in the United States by providing a new visa category for them, among other things, and punishes traffickers by creating new crimes of forced labor, and labor and sex trafficking.

The bill also includes additional legislation that the conferees felt must be moved quickly. In particular, the legislation now includes the Violence Against Women Act of 2000. The original Violence Against Women Act expired last Thursday, leaving millions of American women without protection from the violence that they suffer in their lives. This Act reauthorizes through Fiscal Year 2005 the key programs included in the original Violence Against Women Act, such as the STOP, Pro-Arrest, Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement, and campus grants; battered women's shelters; the National Domestic Violence Hotline; rape prevention and education grant programs; and three victims of child abuse programs, including the court-appointed special advocate program (CASA). It also makes some improvements responding to the experience with the original act, including authorizing grants for legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault and strengthening and refining the protections for battered immigrant women, including a new visa for battered immigrant women. It is fitting that this bill address the severe problems of both trafficking and of violence against women in the United States.

The bill also includes terrorism assistance provisions for using frozen foreign government assets to pay for U.S. victims of terrorism who have judgments against such governments and other assistance for victims of terrorism. This provision addresses the need for compensation for victims of terrorism such as the family of Alissa Flatow, who was killed in a bombing in Jerusalem, the victims of the Cuban shootdown of the plane of the "Brothers of the Rescue" humanitarian organization, Terry Anderson, Joseph Cicciopio and other victims.

Finally, and in my view regrettably, the bill contains a number of extraneous provisions that are somewhat controversial, including a provision dealing with the sale of alcohol through the internet and across state lines. However, these provisions needed to be included for the bill to be reported out of the Conference.

I want to thank the staff of several committees and Members who worked endlessly on this legislation: my counsel, David Abramowitz, Peter Yeo, and Alethea Gordon from my staff; Joseph Rees, Scott Deutchman, Iden Martyn, Glenn Schmitt and Lora Ries, of the House, and Charlotte Oldhan-Moore, Jill Hickson, Karen Knutsen, Sharon Payt, Brian McKeon, and Mark Lagon of the Senate.

Overall, I do believe this bill addresses important and real needs of women and children here and abroad. I urge the Committee to pro-

vide this bill with the normal rule relating to conference reports, waiving points of order against it.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference report on H.R. 4344, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) be permitted to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3244, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

An estimated 1 million to 2 million people are trafficked every year worldwide; 50,000 to the United States. Trafficking is the third largest source of profits for organized crime behind only drugs and guns, generating billions of dollars annually.

This bill contains provisions to strengthen current law to prevent unlawful buying and selling of persons, human beings.

This measure also includes the Violence Against Women Act which has provided and will now continue to provide battered women and their children a safe haven and much-needed support for their physical and their emotional well-being.

□ 1315

Women and children are depending on passage of this important provision within this bill to help stop violent crimes that are too often committed against them. H.R. 3244 addresses the devastating problems of international sex trafficking, sexual predators, violence against women and much more. Violence and abuse against women and children will not be tolerated. I urge passage of this very important bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the inclusion of the Violence Against Women Act in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for supporting this effort to do so.

I remember a Latin phrase meaning after the struggle comes the reward. This has been quite a struggle. This is the reward for the American people.

These two bills form a natural alliance by protecting women around the globe from being abused, raped, bought, sold or forced against their will. We can all celebrate the message being sent to women everywhere when we pass this legislation that women's minds and bodies are their own. By passing this conference report, we empower millions of women around the world to escape from pain and fear.

This version of the Violence Against Women Act combines the strongest

programs of both the House and Senate bills. We will never have a bill that meets every need of every victim and child, but this bill is the strongest commitment that Congress has ever made to fighting domestic violence and sexual assault.

I am proud of the bill. I am proud of the dozens of Members and staff who worked tirelessly to maintain the programs and the funding to meet the horrifying need of millions of victims to be safe from both immediate and long-term danger.

In this bill we finally recognize the highest risk group for intimate partner violence, ages 16 to 24 years old. The House Committee on the Judiciary worked with me to include victims of dating violence in three desperately needed categories: Services and Training for Officers and Prosecutors, or STOP grants; grants to encourage arrest policies; and rural State grants.

With the inclusion of dating violence in the Violence Against Women Act, I hope we can begin to recognize that young women are falling prey to violent relationships in their earliest dating experiences. If we can send them the message that anger and violence is not a sign of love, we may prevent thousands of future battered women and children from living in fear.

By passing this bill, we reauthorize the existing Violence Against Women Act programs for another 5 years. When it was originally passed in 1994, and some of us remember it because we were very much involved with it, Congress authorized \$1.5 billion. Today, we have more than double the available grants to States. We have the STOP grants, we have grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, we have grants essential to protecting victims, the shelters for battered women and children, the National Domestic Violence Hot Line, which as we know receives 13,000 calls per month, in fact more than that, and a number of other provisions. We have increased grants being made available for rape prevention and education programs, which will continue to empower women with ways to protect themselves from sexual assault.

I just want this body to know that they can be very proud of passing this conference report. It will make a difference. It does not settle everything but it will make a big difference.

I also want to commend the staff people, the Committee on the Judiciary, with the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); the other Members, the ranking member; and all the other Members who have worked very hard on it. I want to thank our staffs, especially my staff, Kate Dickens who worked indefatigably on this.

And, lastly, Mr. Speaker, I will be submitting for the RECORD the names of the many organizations and personalities who worked so hard and who deserve the credit for this bill. The credit and the beneficiaries will be the American people.

Judiciary Committee staff, Carl Thorsen and Dan Bryant for their long hours and dedication to understanding the issue, also Cori Flam for her commitment to helping victims. To leadership of their support and especially Paul McNulty for his mediation skills.

Julie Fulcher, Public Policy Director and the staff of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence also Robin Runge and good luck to Marlo Cohen, who is thrilled somewhere in a law library.

Kiersten Stewart, Director of Public Policy and the staff of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

Lynn Rosenthal, Executive Director and the staff of the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Leslye Orloff, Director, Immigrant Women's Program, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Pat Reuss, Vice-President of Government Relations and Jackie Payne at NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Diane Moyer, Director of Public Policy and the staff at Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

Debbie Andrews, Executive Director and staff of RAINN.

Jody Rabhan, Associate Director and the staff at the National Council of Jewish Women.

The National Organization of Women.

National Task Force to End Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and to the thousands of advocates, health care professionals, law enforcement and judicial personnel, prosecutors for caring so much about individuals in need.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Sex Trafficking Victims Protection Act, H.R. 3244. These provisions are vital to ensure women can exercise their rights and to protect women from violence, abuse, sexual assault, and sexual predators. Women should feel safe in their homes, safe walking in the street, and safe at night. The reauthorization of VAWA brings us closer to these goals and will improve the health and quality of life of hundreds of thousands of women and children and families. The underlying bill will reduce illegal and inhumane trafficking in women and children around the world and serve to protect and uphold their human rights.

While I applaud the progress we have made, I am disappointed that the Congressional leadership did not bring these related, but separate provisions, up independently and I am concerned that leadership took so long to debate, vote, and approve these important protections. VAWA was introduced at the beginning of this Congress—more than 18 months ago. This reauthorizing bill should not have been delayed this late and VAWA's authorization should not have expired. In the future, I hope other issues of significance of women are treated in a more timely and measured manner.

This bill reauthorizes the programs under the original Violence Against Women Act con-

tinuing provisions to fund battered women's shelters, rape crisis centers and a hotline for domestic violence. It builds on that bill and strengthens law enforcement to reduce violence; education and training to combat violence; and services to the victims of violence. It also helps limit the traumatic effects violence has on children who too frequently suffer as silent victims.

We must work to support America's young women, our future leaders, and this bill reaches out to them through efforts to prevent campus sex crimes and efforts to prevent teen suicide. In light of the recent attention to many immigration issues, I am pleased this bill addresses the needs of battered immigrant women and takes protective steps to address their plight.

The Sex Trafficking Victims Protection Act will help end trafficking—a terrible modern version of slavery—that rapes, starves, physically brutalizes its victims, ultimately victimizing all women. Since many victims residing in the U.S. lack U.S. citizenship or appropriate documentation, existing U.S. laws are inadequate to protect these victims. This bill seeks to end trafficking and ensure traffickers are held accountable for their crimes.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this legislation.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), as I will the other seven Members that are waiting to come up under Judiciary time.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Let me pay tribute to a lady who will benefit from this legislation, Calla, a Guatemalan woman who lived with her fiancé, a legal permanent resident, for 5 years; and when she asked about getting married so she could apply for her own legal residency, he beats her and accuses her of only wanting to be with him so she can get her immigration status recognized.

This bill is long overdue. The battered immigrant women provisions are necessary. Though I would have wanted to see access to food stamps, access to housing, access to other benefits, we must move this bill forward, and we must move the programs that provide sexual assault prevention programs and education and training of judges. That is a key element for providing relief to those abused individuals.

I would like to thank the Committee on International Relations for protecting the victims of terrorism and those subjected to slavery. This is a good conference report and I ask for my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank the leaders like Congressman JOHN CONYERS who has been a leader on VAWA issues for years, Congressman SAM GEJDENSON, the Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee for his leadership in being instrumental in reaching a compromise on this bill, Congressman TOM LANTOS, who is a champion on Human Rights around the globe, and his true counterpart on the other side, Congressman

CHRIS SMITH, who also has been a champion of Human Rights, and Congressman LAMAR SMITH the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, who I have been able to work very well with throughout the 106th Congress.

I come to the floor today in my capacity as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims. Inside this report is the agreement authorizing VAWA, and some very important provisions that deal with Battered Immigrant Women. I joined with Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY and Congresswoman CONNIE MORELLA to sponsor H.R. 3083, The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 1999, would provide much needed access to battered immigrant victims of domestic violence. Fortunately, many of the provisions of this bill were included in this conference report.

The 1994 VAWA requires the victim to be married to a citizen or permanent resident and prove battery or extreme cruelty by the abuser. There is a provision in this report that eliminates the requirement that an immigrant victim has to prove extreme hardship. The spirit and intent of the 1994 law was to allow immigrants to safely escape the violence and bring their abusers to justice, now this can be done with the adoption of this report.

This Conference Report has language that would provide VAWA relief to abused children who subsequently turn 21 as long as they can demonstrate that one or more incidents of battery or extreme cruelty occurred before they turned 21.

This conference report gives battered immigrants living abroad new access to VAWA immigration relief. Abused children of spouses married to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. government employees living abroad are trapped overseas unable to escape and seek assistance. Filing a family-based visa petition at an American consulate is permissible, while filing VAWA self-petitions are not. This Conference Report makes it possible for battered immigrant women to file their own petitions. This is a major change.

This Conference Report now allows battered immigrants to file VAWA self-petitions if it is filed within two years of divorce. Divorced battered immigrants do not have access to VAWA immigrant relief. There are many "savvy" abusers who know that if they divorce their abused spouse they will cut off their victim's access to VAWA relief. Provisions in this report change that.

I am very disappointed that some missing provisions that were in the House bill, H.R. 3083 are not in the Conference Report. They are provisions that: exempted fiancés from conditional residency requirements, a provision that extended VAWA to sons and daughters of legal permanent residents who are 21 and would allow them to include children in the self-petition; a provision that would have given battered immigrants the option of having children follow to join them rather than placing them in deportation proceedings; and deeply regret that there are no provisions in the report that provide access to food stamps to battered aliens; and access to housing, and access to benefits that would enable the alien to avoid battery or extreme cruelty in the future.

We need this language because far too often, the pleas for help by these immigrant victims are not heard because of language or cultural barriers. Moreover, many victims remain silent because the threat of deportation

looms over them and their children. As a result, immigrant women are caught in an intersection of immigration, family, and welfare laws that do not reflect their needs and life experiences, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation with few options for redress. There are real human illustrations as to why we need this bill.

Carla, a Guatemalan woman, has lived with her boyfriend, a legal permanent resident for five years. When she asks him about getting married so she can apply for her own legal residency, he beats her and accuses her of only wanting to be with him so she can get her immigration status recognized.

Such compelling real-life stories illustrate the unique array of legal, economic, and social problems battered immigrant women face today. Most importantly, when these women are facing desperate times and struggles, they have children who are directly impacted. Often times when the mothers are in shelters or deported, the children become the custody of local child welfare agencies.

A battered woman, who is not a legal resident, or whose immigration status depends completely on her partner, is often isolated by unique cultural dynamics which may prevent her from leaving her husband or seeking assistance from the American legal system. With the adoption of this report, a woman in this position is now provided relief. The language in this report will improve the lives of battered immigrants and send them on a path to rebuilding their lives and the lives of their children. I urge the adoption of this report.

While the sweeping provisions of Battered Immigrant Women are included in this report, there is also the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act for five years. The money for these programs will combat violence against women, including battered women's shelters and services, sexual assault prevention programs and education and training judges. While I favored the Conyers version in committee, it does seem that compromise was reached to include some much needed provisions from his bill.

The Conference Agreement also includes provisions to allow victims of terrorism or their families in the United States to recover judgments against countries listed by the State Department as sponsors of terrorism. Under the agreement, the president would have the authority to differentiate, on an asset-by-asset basis, the premises of foreign diplomatic missions, but not commercial property or rental proceeds from diplomatic property eligible to be protected. This is a reasonable compromise because I remember that the Administration had some concerns and they have been taken care of.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA).

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report, and I especially want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for their valiant leadership. This is long overdue, and all the battered women and children in this world need this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, for his leadership in bringing these various important items to the floor. I strongly support the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, Aimee's Law and 21st Century Amendment Enforcement Act. These provisions are extremely important to women and children in our nation and in the international community.

What I would particularly like to focus my time on today is the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. I commend Mrs. MORELLA for her diligent leadership to ensure that this important legislation is reauthorized before the end of the session.

H.R. 1248 authorizes \$3 billion dollars over the next four years to fund various programs that support state and local efforts to shelter battered women, train local police and court officials how to handle domestic abuse cases, and provide a hotline and counseling services to battered women.

In my district, the fifth district of New Jersey, there are numerous state and local efforts to address the problem of domestic violence. I want to tell you about four of these programs today. In Hackensack, New Jersey, we have the "Shelter our Sisters" domestic abuse program. This program provides shelter and clothing for battered women of Bergen County and their children. In Passaic County, we have the "Strengthen our Sisters" program which is located in Wanaque, NJ. I visited this shelter last spring. Not only do they provide shelter and clothing. As part of the services provided, the program includes a beauty parlor that is run by battered women from the shelter. This provides the ability for the women to have their hair and nails done before looking for a job. In Sussex County, Domestic Abuse Services, Inc. (DASI) is an organization that has been active for over 16 years. DASI offers a variety of services, including individual and group counseling, a 24-hour hotline, an emergency shelter, a food pantry, a sexual trauma resource center, and community education about domestic violence. And to summarize, I want to identify Ginny's House in Sussex County, which has the heart and soul of angel's helping the little children of our county with physical and emotional support.

These are just a few examples of the innovative things people in my district have done to help women who are the victims of domestic abuse. I commend these programs for their work assisting women get "back on their feet" after being the unfortunate victims of abuse.

Violence against women continues to be a disturbing reality in America. Every day, four women die in this country as a result of domestic violence, and studies indicate that nearly two to four million women are battered each year. In addition, more than 132,000 women are raped yearly.

Six years ago, the Violence Against Women Act became law as part of the historic 1994 Crime Bill. VAWA reflected a comprehensive understanding of the broad range of strategies needed to change this nation's response to violence against women.

Its passage was a watershed event in the continuing struggle to end this type of unnecessary violence. Since the law was passed in 1994, the Justice Department estimates that violence against women has decreased by 21 percent.

The bottom line is: as this decrease indicates this comprehensive approach to com-

bating domestic violence works. But our work is not done until violence against women in our nation is completely eliminated.

I know that all of us in Congress are deeply concerned about these violent crimes that are perpetrated against women. It is a serious national problem whether it takes the form of domestic battery, rape and murder, or stalking. I believe our ability to respond effectively to such violent crimes is an indicator of our commitment to securing safe neighborhoods and safe communities. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH).

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for yielding me this time; and I also thank the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for his important work on this bill and including the language from my bill, H.R. 2031, the 21st Amendment Enforcement Act. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) for cosponsoring this important bill.

It is important because it stops illegal bootlegging on the Internet and the illegal sale of alcohol. This legislation ensures that States have the resources they need to enforce their alcohol control laws from out-of-State bootleggers and illegal shippers of alcohol.

It is important to remember that there are no new substantive laws. This only allows State attorneys general the ability to seek injunctive relief in Federal Court to enforce State laws relating to direct shipment of intoxicating liquor. It does not apply to anybody unless they are breaking the law.

It is a comprehensive solution that is carefully crafted to give States access to Federal courts to enforce their laws without infringing on the use of cutting edge marketing techniques if the deliveries and the sales they generate are made illegally.

This bill is not about the Internet per se. It creates no Internet commerce policy nor does it change the States or the Federal Government's alcohol policy. If people are playing by the rules, it does not apply to them. No new laws, if people play by the rules. But if they break the rules, if they sell to children over the Internet or engage in illegal bootlegging, that can be and will be stopped now by State attorneys general thanks to the 21st Amendment Enforcement Act.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means, I am particularly pleased we were able to work out an

agreement allowing victims of trafficking access to certain basic assistance programs, such as Medicaid, TANF, and food stamps. I am also pleased that, in addition to the trafficking bill, we were able to include the Violence Against Women Act. It is very important legislation, and I am pleased we were able to incorporate it in the conference report before us.

I must point out, though, that I am disappointed we were able to include the Child Support Distribution Act that passed overwhelmingly by this body and is now laboring in the other body. The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) and I had urged the conference to include that particular legislation. We were unable to convince our friends in the other body, but I would hope that before we adjourn sine die that we will be able to pass that important legislation that would send over a billion dollars of increased child support to our Nation's poorest children and families.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), who has been working very, very hard on the trafficking issue, particularly as a member of the Helsinki Commission.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a bill that my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), has worked tirelessly on.

As Americans, we have always worked for justice and freedom in our borders and worldwide, and that is what this bill is all about; justice through criminal penalties and victim restitution for those who would traffic women and children, and freedom for the victims as the United States takes the lead in fighting to end this criminal business around the world.

I want to take a moment to thank Dr. Laura Lederer, Director of the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University. Her work has been vital to those working for the victims of sexual trafficking. I hope she is able to continue her study. Let me just read her quote. "Sexual trafficking is a huge problem that urgently needs to be addressed. To conceptualize how immense the problem is, imagine a city the size of Minneapolis or St. Louis, made up entirely of women and children. Imagine that those women and children are kidnapped, raped, and forced into prostitution. Imagine it happening every year. Then stop imagining, because it is happening now and in those numbers."

That is why we are voting on the bill today, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, last March I was honored to be in Southeast Asia. We heard the terrifying sto-

ries of trafficking victims and spoke with dedicated individuals who have devoted their lives to helping those women. Today, we have the opportunity to assure these women and children that they are not alone; that the international community recognizes their struggle and is committed to putting an end to this barbaric practice.

This legislation devotes critical funds to helping foreign governments fight trafficking and assist their victims, and pledges the full force of U.S. law to stopping this practice here at home. This is an important step, and I support it wholeheartedly.

I am especially delighted that this conference report contains the reauthorization of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. For those of us who have been fighting for VAWA, today is a cause for celebration.

But more importantly, this bill represents a major victory for the millions of American women who cannot advocate for themselves, women who suffer abuse in silence and in shame, women whose lives and liberty are jeopardized due to gender-based violence.

It used to be that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault were ostracized by their communities, ignored by law enforcement, and even shunned by their own families. But VAWA has played a major role in changing that. It significantly bolstered criminal penalties for sex offenses, stalking, and domestic violence. And in just six years, VAWA has provided over \$1.6 billion to support prosecutors, law enforcement, courts, shelters, support services, and prevention programs to combat violence against women.

But we have so much work left to do. Experts estimate that 1.5 million women are victims of gender-based violence every year. An estimated one in three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by an intimate partner during her lifetime. And women throughout America will continue to suffer because they lack access to legal representation in obtaining orders of protection, filing divorce or custody cases, and disputing discrimination in the workplace.

I'm so proud that we are at long last sending the Violence Against Women Act to the President. I'm also delighted that legislation I authored to expand victims' access to legal services has been included in this bill. Increasing funding for legal services to \$40 million annually, improving the training of attorneys, and requiring cooperation between legal service providers and victims' organizations will all help empower thousands of women to break the cycle of abuse.

Every woman—whether in our country or abroad—deserves to feel and be safe in her home, her workplace, and in her community. For our nation's women and women around the world, I urge my colleagues to pass this critical bill.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3244, a bill on sex trafficking on the floor at this time.

My colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), has held sev-

eral hearings in the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, and I commend him for that and also the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for his interest.

This act will work to combat trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States and in other countries; it also enacts tough criminal laws against buying, selling, either by force, fraud or coercion, or where the victim is a minor. It authorizes the rehabilitation and shelter programs; it authorizes law enforcement assistance to help foreign governments fight trafficking; and encourages the Secretary of State to produce an annual list of foreign countries who do not meet minimum international standards to eliminate trafficking.

This has grown tremendously. Some report it at least \$7 billion per year, second only to drug and international arms trade. The victims are young people who have no hope.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3244.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) has 5½ minutes remaining, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) HAS 4½ MINUTES REMAINING.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), the author of Aimee's Law.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to clarify my response to the colloquy I engaged in with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS). The version of Aimee's Law contained in H.R. 3244 would apply only to individuals convicted of murders, rape, or child molestation for a second time after the law takes effect on January 1st, 2002. I hope that clears up any misunderstanding that I might have had or given.

□ 1330

I would also like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his graciousness in including this legislation, which will make a real difference in people's lives. Because, Mr. Speaker, 14,000 rapes, murders, and molestations occur every year, and they are 100 percent preventable. Because if these monsters were not let out of prison, or if after let out of prison they had an adequate program for tracking these people through their parole program to make sure that the violence is not recommitted, lives would be spared, children's innocence would be preserved, and women's lives would not be ruined.

This will make a difference. It will make a difference.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, since I have 45 seconds, I am going to forego all the preliminaries and only stand to say, as a former prosecutor engaged in the prosecution of domestic violence cases, the Violence Against Women Act provided us the opportunity to come together and put together a program and protocol in our community to deal with violence against women.

I am very proud to stand in support of this legislation as it extends itself to deal with women who are in this country and the victim of violence.

I will again say that I hate the administrative nightmares that are aided by the Aimee's law, but it is very important that we make sure that we provide prosecutors, State court judges, police officers, and Violence Against Women workers with the money they need to do the job out on the streets.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for all his fine work in introducing this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, my message is very simple. Congress must give local school boards the resources they need to keep guns out of their classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, do my colleagues remember the time when guns were routinely involved in the airline hijackings? What happened? Airlines installed metal detectors. That was 30 years ago.

Here in the Capitol, after several tragic incidents involving guns, the Capitol Police installed metal detectors here.

Today, when we have elementary schoolchildren bringing guns into their schools, and this phenomenon has occurred across the country, it is now long beyond time to give local school boards the help they need to keep guns out of their schools.

Therefore, we must pass the Secure Our Schools Act, a bill which I introduced along with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) and others, which is part of this conference report.

Under this bill, Federal matching grants would be provided to any school that requests help to pay for metal detectors, security cameras, or other security devices, or to train school officials in security matters, or to work with local law enforcement officials.

I am very pleased that this bill, with bipartisan support, overwhelmingly passed the House Committee on the Judiciary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), for all his assistance and to thank the gentleman from Illi-

nois (Chairman HYDE), without whom this bill would not be on the floor today.

In particular, I would like to mention and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for his invaluable work in reaching across the aisle to assure bipartisan support so that America's children are protected from guns entering their classrooms.

Some young constituents of mine, middle school students from Saddle Brook, New Jersey, said it best when they wrote to me and said, "School is supposed to be a place where we feel safe."

Let us give them and their local school boards the resources to keep guns out of their schools.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this conference report.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and thank her for the excellent work that she has done on this bill.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and the International Sexual Trafficking Bill. Both of these important bills were top priorities of the bipartisan Women's Caucus. I regret that it was packaged with several other unrelated, nongermane bills.

The International Sexual Trafficking Bill is important because not only does it take steps to eliminate the sex trafficking industry by punishing the predators that exploit women around the world, but it also takes steps to protect the victims of sex trafficking.

The bill sets forth the minimum international standards for the elimination of sex trafficking. It establishes criminal and civil penalties. And it does many other things.

I appreciate all of my colleagues' work on this important bill for women.

And by establishing criminal and civil penalties for traffickers this bill punishes traffickers for profiting from the victimization of women.

In addition, it authorizes assistance, through non-governmental organizations to the native countries of sex trafficked victims to help the victims and to take steps to stop the industry.

The United States is not immune to the problems of trafficking. It is estimated that as many as 50,000 women, children, and men are trafficked into the U.S. each year. This bill would assist those victims by authorizing a new visa for trafficking victims to provide protection to the women and children that are brought into the United States and forced into prostitution.

Of course there is more that needs to be done to stop the many human rights abuses inflicted on women around the world.

Attacking the sex trafficking industry is an important step in the continued fight for women's rights and freedom around the world.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this Conference Agreement on H.R. 3244 and the joint efforts of the House, Senate, and Administration to assert our global leadership in halting trafficking and gender-specific violence against all persons, particularly women and girls around the world. Practices of abduction, coercion, violence and exploitation are without a doubt the most reprehensible phenomena sweeping the globe today.

We know that between 1–2 million women and children are trafficked annually around the world. Approximately 50,000–100,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year primarily from Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. Think about this for a moment. In our country, where we have fought to secure women rights for nearly a century, we too are plagued by these terrible practices. Women and girls suffer extreme physical and mental abuse including rape, torture, starvation, imprisonment and sometimes death. Women and children trafficked in the sex industry are exposed to deadly disease including HIV and AIDS.

While many of us are prospering in the global economy, still others are exploited by traffickers seeking to capitalize on foreign labor markets, the disintegrating social networks, and lower status of women. Victims are lured into trafficking networks through false promises of jobs, good working conditions, high pay and foreign adventure. Yet, slave-like conditions in jobs as domestic workers, factory workers, sex workers, nannies, waitresses, and service workers mire trafficked women and children at the bottom, lock them into the most insecure occupations, and leave victims open to ongoing exploitation and isolation.

Trafficking is a grave human rights, economic, migration, and transnational crimes issue. In 1998, President Clinton established the anti-trafficking strategy of prevention, protection for victims, and prosecution and enforcement against traffickers. The President also charged the Interagency Council on Women with coordinating the U.S. trafficking in women and children policy.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3244 will permit the U.S. government to extend our efforts to combat trafficking in women and children and ensure a just and effective punishment of traffickers and protect their victims. This bill directs the Secretary of State to include comprehensive information on trafficking in our Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The bill also establishes the "Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking" which I applaud. I believe the high level appointments to this Task Force, including the Secretary of State, Director of USAID, and Attorney General speak to the seriousness to which our country takes this issue. H.R. 3244 will help create economic alternatives to deter women from traffickers by providing them clear choices to improve their economic conditions.

H.R. 3244 engages the U.S. government with foreign countries to meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and establishes a policy not to provide nonhumanitarian foreign assistance to countries which do not meet these minimum standards. And, this bill targets individuals who are known to traffic in persons. The Secretary of State is instructed to establish a list of such persons to identify and sanction such persons who are significant traffickers in persons. The Attorney General is empowered to strengthen the prosecution and punishment of traffickers.

And, finally, this bill puts our money where our hearts and commitments are to end this horrible practice by authorizing \$15 million over two years to Health and Human Services, \$15 million over two years to the Secretary of State, \$15 million over two years to the Attorney General and \$15 million each for victims' assistance and foreign countries to meet minimum standards and finally, \$15 million over two years to the Secretary of Labor to assist victims in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the H.R. 3244 Conference Report.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report.

The conference report includes H.R. 1248, which reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for an additional five years.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 1248, I commend my colleagues Mr. HYDE, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. MCCOLLUM for their tireless efforts to bring this vital piece of legislation to the floor.

The scourge of domestic violence must be ended. Perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes must be punished, and victims must have support services available to help them transition to a normal life.

VAWA is a piece of legislation this body can be proud of. This law has substantially reduced the levels of violence committed against women and children by their spouses and partners.

Since it was signed into law in 1994, VAWA has strengthened criminal laws and provided funding to enhance their enforcement. It has also provided a foundation for a successful long term criminal justice effort to end violence against women.

By encouraging collaboration among police, prosecutors and victim service providers, VAWA is building a comprehensive community response to violence against women across the country.

VAWA grants have made a difference in the lives of women and their families. Authorization for this critical set of programs expires in four days. It would simply be irresponsible of this body to fail to reauthorize the legislation before adjourning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act by voting for H.R. 3244.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that H.R. 3244, the Smith-Gejdenson-Brownback-Wellstone Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, is now poised to be passed and, hopefully, will be passed by the Senate and sent to the President for signature.

Interestingly and importantly, it has been endorsed by people like Chuck Colson and Gloria Steinem, by the Family Research Council and Equality Now, by the Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism, as well as the National Association of Evangelicals.

In crafting this legislation, we also had the very able assistance of impartial experts, such as Gary Haugen of the International Justice Mission, which goes out and rescues trafficked women and children one by one, and Dr. Laura Lederer of the Protection Project, whose painstaking research has been indispensable to ensuring that we have the facts about this worldwide criminal enterprise and its victims.

I also especially want to thank my Staff Director and Chief Counsel Grover Joseph Rees, who has been indefatigable in his expertise on a myriad of these issues. As former general counsel of the INS, he has been indispensable in writing and crafting this legislation.

I also want to thank David Abramowitz with the Democratic staff, who has also done yeoman's work. This is truly bipartisan legislation. I also want to express my gratitude to Michael Horowitz of the Hudson Institute who has supported this effort from day one.

H.R. 3244 has attracted such broad support not only because it is pro-woman, pro-child, pro-human rights, pro-family values, and anti-crime, but also because it addresses a problem that cries out for a solution. Division A of this conference report, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, focuses on the most severe forms of trafficking in human beings: on the buying and selling of children into the international sex industry, on sex trafficking of women and children alike by force, fraud, or coercion, and on trafficking into slavery and involuntary servitude.

Each year as many as two million innocent victims—of whom the overwhelming majority are women and children—are brought by force and/or fraud into the international commercial sex industry. Efforts by the United States government, international organizations, and others to stop this brutal practice have thus far proved unsuccessful.

Part of the problem is that current laws and law enforcement strategies—in the United States as in other nations—often punish victims more severely than they punish the perpetrators. When a sex-for-hire establishment is raided, the women (and sometimes children) in the brothel are typically

deported if they are not citizens of the country in which the establishment is located—without reference to whether their participation was voluntary or involuntary, and without reference to whether they will face retribution or other serious harm upon return. This not only inflicts further cruelty on the victims, it also leaves nobody to testify against the real criminals, and frightens other victims from coming forward.

This legislation seeks the elimination of slavery, and particularly sex slavery, by a comprehensive, balanced approach of prevention, prosecution and enforcement, and victim protection. The central principle behind the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is that criminals who knowingly operate enterprises that profit from sex acts involving persons who have been brought across international boundaries for such purposes by force or fraud, or who force human beings into slavery, should receive punishment commensurate with the penalties for kidnapping and forcible rape. This would be not only a just punishment, but also a powerful deterrent.

And the logical corollary of this principle is that we need to treat victims of these terrible crimes as victims, who desperately need our help and protection. The bill implements these principles by toughening up enforcement and by providing protection and assistance for victims.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very proud that Division B is the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, of which I was also a co-sponsor along with HENRY HYDE, BILL MCCOLLUM, CONNIE MORELLA and other colleagues from both parties. This Act includes provisions to reauthorize federal programs that combat violence against women, to strengthen law enforcement to reduce violence against women, to strengthen services to victims of violence, to limit the effects of violence on children, to strengthen education and training to combat violence against women, to enact new procedures for the protection of battered immigrant women, and to extend the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot wait one more day to begin saving the millions of women and children who are forced every day to submit to the most atrocious offenses against their persons and against their dignity as human beings. I urge unanimous support for the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD my understanding of the Twenty-first Amendment Enforcement Act as reflected in the Conference Report concerning Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (H.R. 3244).

Representative CHRIS SMITH's H.R. 3244 has been in Conference for the past several weeks. That Conference concluded with a report that allows the Twenty-first Amendment Enforcement Act (S. 577—Hatch) to be added to the legislation. I have a strong objection to the addition of this legislation, as it is not germane to the underlying, House-passed bill.

However, as I support my esteemed colleague's efforts, I will vote to pass the Conference report.

As a proud vintner, I object to the association of my industry with violence against women, sex trafficking and slavery, and believe that S. 577 should not be included for that reason. In addition to my objection, The National Association of State Legislatures took action opposing S. 577 on a 41–7 vote. Mothers Against Drunk Driving does not support Congress' involvement in an internal industry issue under the guise of juvenile access to alcohol.

The proponents of S. 577 argue that the legislation is needed in order to avoid distribution of alcoholic beverages to minors. If that is indeed their position, the Conference Report should include language that limits the provisions of S. 577 to enforcement in cases involving minors. It does not; therefore, I believe that the intention of the proponents of S. 577 is in fact broader than the rhetoric would indicate.

Previous versions of the Twenty-first Amendment Enforcement Act contained provisions that would have allowed states to unfairly discriminate against out-of-state sellers for the purposes of economic protectionism. Such protectionism would clearly be a violation of the Commerce clause of the Constitution; thus, the current version of this legislation does not allow for such protectionist acts.

The Twenty-first Amendment Enforcement Act is simply a jurisdictional statute with very narrow and specific purposes. The bill is not intended to allow the enforcement of invalid or unconstitutional state liquor laws in the federal courts, and is certainly not intended to allow states to unfairly discriminate against out of state sellers. The legislation does provide the federal courts jurisdiction to injunctive relief actions brought by state attorneys general seeking to enforce state laws dealing with the importation or transportation of alcoholic beverages. We are not today saying that those state laws are valid, reasonable or in any manner given import outside of the jurisdiction of the state.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Conference has reported a bill that confuses, rather than enlightens, the debate within the alcohol beverage industry regarding the best mechanism for consumers to obtain the products they wish to purchase in a free society. As a stand-alone bill, I have worked to make sure that this confusion was not adopted in law. However, the procedural actions that resulted in this bill being included in the Sex Trafficking conference report make such efforts futile, and as I indicated, I will vote to support the report.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I support this conference report, which combines a number of law-enforcement measures, including two very important measures to protect women around the world and here in the United States.

Worldwide, the conference report takes important steps to make the United States a full partner in the international effort to curb exploitation of women who are the victims of the international sex trade. This is very important because recent favorable international developments—including the breakup of the Soviet Union and greater freedom of travel—have also had the effect of making it easier for this exploitation to occur.

Here at home, the conference report also authorizes the important programs of the Violence

Against Women Act, or "VAWA." That is also something I strongly support.

VAWA is very important for Colorado. Through last year, our state received almost \$15 million in VAWA grants. That money has helped assist victims of domestic violence, but it has also done much more.

In fact, according to a letter from our Attorney General, Ken Salazar, and his colleagues from other states, VAWA "has enabled us to maximize the effectiveness of our state programs that have made a critical difference in the lives of women and children endangered by domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking."

VAWA is also important for our country. It has made a difference in the lives of millions of women by aiding in the prosecution of cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, by increasing services for victims and resources for law enforcement personnel, and by establishing a National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Partly as a result, crimes against women have decreased by 27 percent since VAWA's enactment.

But more remains to be done. More women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer combined. More than one-third of all women using emergency rooms are victims of domestic violence. In 1997 more than 250,000 women and children sought refuge from domestic violence in women's shelters. More than 300,000 sexual assaults were perpetrated against women in 1998 alone. And every year more than one million women are targeted by stalkers.

Because I strongly support renewing and strengthening this vital measure, I joined in cosponsoring H.R. 1248, the bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill that was also supported by the Administration. The House passed that bill last month, and by passing this conference report we will take the next step toward its enactment.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3244, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act Conference Report. This life saving legislation for women and girls in the United States is a strong, positive example to all nations around the world that violence against women and girls is intolerable and must end.

The Violence Against Women Act, first established in 1994, has been successful, and its renewal is essential. The National Organization for Women reports that every day four women in this country die as a result of domestic violence, and that between two to four million women of all races and socioeconomic classes are battered annually in America. The Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which is included in this bill, commits over three billion dollars for the next five years to assist victims of domestic violence, and seek an end to such behavior in our society.

The plight of battered women is a sad and tragic concern. Fortunately in my community, organizations such as Hope House, MOSCA, and Rose Brooks are there for women and children in need. This measure will help reach women who are not now being served because of current limited resources.

Around the world, the problem of trafficking in women and girls is growing. Currently, trafficking is the third largest source of profits for organized crime. America has a responsibility to address this problem because over 50,000

women are illegally trafficked into our country each year. Through prevention and immigration services, this measure will aid these women who have been forcibly removed from their homes and shipped overseas.

I urge reauthorization of this vitally important measure to empower millions of women worldwide through protection of their bodies and spirits. I applaud the numerous women's organizations and fellow co-sponsors who have worked tirelessly on these issues, and I salute the commitment of this Congress to enact this measure.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure, and I am delighted that we have found an acceptable vehicle to attach a provision to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This is an area that deserves continued attention in our country, and we must continue to spread the word to reduce the violence that occurs every day against American women.

The agreement in H.R. 3244 will fund programs to combat violence against women, including much-needed battered women's shelters and services, sexual assault prevention programs and education and training for judges. Unfortunately, this is a problem that continues to be prevalent in my area and has an impact on the entire community. However, H.R. 3244 goes a long way toward curbing the violence that affects women victims by assuring access to free shelters. Hopefully, this bill will continue as a positive step to reduce the overall domestic violence that plagues our communities.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3244, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which includes reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

The Strengthened Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) we will vote on today reauthorizes current VAWA grant programs for five years, makes targeted improvements, and adds important new programs.

The bill strengthens law enforcement efforts to reduce violence against women, increases services to victims of violence, seeks to limit the effects of violence on children, enhances education and training to combat violence against women, and provides important new protections for battered immigrant women.

The original VAWA bill authorized \$1.5 billion for programs to protect women and children from domestic abuse. The bill we will vote on today provides \$3.4 billion for the 2001–2005 reauthorization period.

The passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 was one of the greatest accomplishments of the 103rd Congress and the Clinton Administration. Since 1995, VAWA grants have provided a major source of funding for national and local programs to reduce rape, stalking, and domestic violence. The 1994 Act bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases; provided services for victims by funding shelters and sexual assault crisis centers; increased resources for law enforcement and prosecutors; and created a National Domestic Violence Hotline.

The VAWA bill we will vote on today provides important new provisions to prevent and prosecute dating violence, to help women who

are trying to escape domestic violence by providing transitional housing and legal assistance services, to enforce state and tribal protection orders nationwide, to improve services to victims of violence, and much more.

I also strongly support the Trafficking Protection Act, which strengthens current law to prevent the unlawful international trafficking of women and children, to increase penalties for those who engage in this abhorrent practice, and to protect the victims of trafficking. This modern form of slavery, which forces women and children into prostitution or forced labor must be eliminated.

I am confident that my colleagues will vote to support H.R. 3244, which provides vital protections for women and children and gives us the tools we need to prosecute those who prey upon them.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today in support of the conference report for H.R. 3244, the Transportation appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. This Member greatly appreciates the inclusion of \$3.5 million for the construction of a pedestrian/trolley overpass in Lincoln, Nebraska. This request was this Member's highest infrastructure priority for fiscal year 2001.

The City of Lincoln, Nebraska, is seeking Federal assistance for transportation improvements associated with the construction of a new baseball/softball complex. The construction of the complex, to be built on the edge of downtown Lincoln, represents a partnership between the City, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and private business. It will be home of a minor league baseball team, the UN-L baseball and softball teams, as well as any number of City of Lincoln recreational activities.

Currently, the most pressing need for the City of Lincoln in the completion of this project, is the construction of a pedestrian/trolley overpass that would allow for safe and enhanced access to the stadium. The reason this bridge is so vital is that it would provide important connections between the baseball complex, the popular Haymarket section of Lincoln, the City's trails system, the University of Nebraska campus, and parking facilities for both the baseball complex and the home of the Husker football team, Memorial Stadium. What makes this development site unusual and difficult, but the reason it is available, is the fact that it is separated from the downtown area by I-180 and what is literally one of the world's busiest train routes where huge amounts of western coal are moved east, along with large volumes of other freight. Therefore, the City of Lincoln plans to use and really must use the most innovative techniques to move large numbers of people in short periods to this site during events. The approach selected must be chosen to allow for enhanced transit, paratransit, bicycle, and pedestrian access from the University and the Lincoln community.

The City of Lincoln has already committed \$1 million. The \$3.5 million appropriation in the Transportation appropriations conference report is necessary for Lincoln to compete this important project.

Within the conference report, however, Mr. Speaker, is the .08 blood alcohol mandate. Although the conference compromise agreement is better than the Senate-passed language, this Member is opposed to all Federal mandates on Highway Trust Funds which require

either the passage of specific state legislation or the loss of Federal highway funds. This Member has always opposed any provisions which would limit or reduce the Highway Trust Funds or limit the states' ability to use their Highway Trust Funds as they choose. Nebraska and other Americans pay their gasoline taxes at the pump and deserve to have them returned for highway construction and maintenance and other transportation projects, without strings being attached. In short, states should be allocated money from the highway trust funds without conditionality being applied for any objectives—be those objectives noble or misguided. Of course, this Member recognizes that drunk driving remains a serious problem—and in fact more than twenty-four years ago introduced what he has been told was the first bill in the Nebraska Legislature to lower the standard to .08 percent; unfortunately, it never made it out of committee because of the strenuous opposition of the alcohol lobby. This Member believes that under the U.S. Constitution, the establishment of the blood alcohol content level as it relates to driving is the responsibility of the states, not the Federal Government. Nevertheless, despite this very strong concern I believe the case for the prompt enactment of this legislation is compelling.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to support H.R. 3244.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 1, not voting 62, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

YEAS—371

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Archer
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barr
Barrett (NE)
Barrett (WI)
Bartlett
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berry
Biggart

Bilbray
Bishop
Blagojevich
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Calvert
Camp

Canady
Cannon
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Chenoweth-Hage
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Coburn
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cook
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne

Crane
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (VA)
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Dickey
Dingell
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Etheridge
Evans
Ewing
Fattah
Filner
Fletcher
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gejdenson
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Graham
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill (IN)
Hill (MT)
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inslee
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)

Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kingston
Klecza
Kucinich
Kuykendall
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Lantos
Largent
Larson
Latham
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Martinez
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Menendez
Millender
McDonald
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minge
Mink
Moakley
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Packard
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pease
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)

Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogan
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salmon
Salmon
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Simpson
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spratt
Stabenow
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Weygand
Whitfield
Wicker

Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey

Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Sanford

NOT VOTING—62

Ackerman	Franks (NJ)	Metcalf
Baker	Goodling	Mica
Ballenger	Goss	Miller (FL)
Barton	Hansen	Pascrell
Berman	Hefley	Paul
Bilirakis	Hunter	Peterson (PA)
Bliley	Hutchinson	Pickett
Blumenauer	Isakson	Rangel
Callahan	Kennedy	Reyes
Campbell	King (NY)	Shuster
Carson	Klink	Smith (TX)
Clay	Knollenberg	Spence
Cramer	Kolbe	Stark
Danner	LaTourette	Strickland
Diaz-Balart	Lazio	Talent
Dicks	Lewis (GA)	Thompson (MS)
Eshoo	Lipinski	Vento
Everett	McCollum	Waters
Farr	McIntosh	Waxman
Forbes	Meek (FL)	Wise
Fowler	Meeks (NY)	

□ 1401

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, due to a conflict, I missed rollcall No. 518. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on adoption of the conference report for H.R. 3244, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 518, I could not be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 518, I could not be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 518, I could not be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, due to sickness in my family and thus the need to return home to my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote No. 518. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3244, final passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

□

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, today the House debated H.R. 3244, the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act" conference report. I was unavoidably absent for a vote on the rule (H. Res. 613) and the bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the rule (rollcall vote No. 517) and "aye" on the conference report (rollcall vote No. 518).

□

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes 514, 515, 516, 517 and 518, I was absent. I was in my district, touring flood damage in the Presidentially-declared federal disaster area, with the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of those votes.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to inquire about next week's schedule.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FROST. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow Committee on Rules member, the gentleman from Dallas, for yielding.

I am pleased to announce to our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. The House will next meet for legislative business on Tuesday, October 10, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. The House will consider a number of bills under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices later today.

On Tuesday, the House will also consider H.R. 4205, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. We are hoping in the Committee on Rules to be able to report the rule on that conference report out before too terribly long. I hope my friend from Texas will remain with us while we attempt to do that.

On Tuesday, I should say there are no votes anticipated until after 6 p.m.

On Wednesday, October 11, and the balance of the week, the House will consider the following measures: H.R. 4461, the Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report; H.R. 4577, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Conference Report; and H.R. 4942, the District of Columbia Appropriations Conference Report. The House will also consider any other conference reports that may become available throughout the week.

I thank my friend for yielding and hope that when we do report out this conference report rule upstairs that we will be able to send everyone home for the weekend.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin, the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could inquire, can we be assured that next week all of the appropriations conference reports will actually be in the conference reports, or will we again have to go through the charade that we went through today where, if you went to the conference report on the bill passed earlier, you could not find one word of the bill that was being conferenced?

Mr. DREIER. Well, I will assure my friend that we will not continue with any kind of "charade" that he thinks may or may not have taken place. We are going to try to proceed with con-

ference reports and have votes on those next week.

Mr. OBEY. Can the gentleman assure us that every bill that has been conferenced will, in fact, be found in the conference report?

Mr. DREIER. If my friend would continue to yield, I cannot provide assurance that my friend from Wisconsin will be completely happy with the procedure that will be followed.

Mr. OBEY. I did not think so.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I have several questions, if I may. First, I listened carefully to what my colleague on the Committee on Rules said. I am not sure I understood exactly one point. Do we expect any appropriation bills on the floor on Tuesday, or are they only going to come up later in the week?

Mr. DREIER. At this juncture, we do not anticipate any appropriation conference reports to be on the floor on Tuesday.

Mr. FROST. If I could ask the gentleman an additional question, when will our business be completed for the week next week? Do we anticipate a weekend session?

Mr. DREIER. Do we anticipate? As my friend knows, the Continuing Resolution expires one week from tomorrow, and we hope very much we will have the work of the 106th Congress completed by that time. So, at this juncture, we hope that we will be completed by next Saturday.

Mr. FROST. Do we anticipate being here on Saturday?

Mr. DREIER. I think it would be great if we could finish it midweek and adjourn sine die, but that probably will not happen. At this juncture, we have until Saturday, when the Continuing Resolution expires; and it is our hope that we will complete our work by that time.

Mr. FROST. Should we not complete our work by next Saturday, by the day on which the CR expires, do we anticipate very short-term CRs after that? Can we tell how long the next one would be, if in fact the next one were necessary?

Mr. DREIER. We will obviously want to work closely with our friends on the other side of the aisle and down Pennsylvania Avenue to bring about some kind of resolution on that question. I think it is too early to raise that question, and we are all hoping that by the expiration of the Continuing Resolution next Saturday, we will be able to adjourn sine die.

□

H-1B NON-IMMIGRANT WORKERS FEE INCREASE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5362) to increase the amount of fees charged to employers who are petitioners for the employment of H-1B non-immigrant workers, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), my distinguished colleague on the Committee on the Judiciary, for an explanation and a discussion of the purpose of the bill that he offers.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill adds the final piece to the H-1B legislation that we passed earlier this week. There is widespread consensus that the \$500 fee for an H-1B visa application should be increased. The money collected in fees goes toward job training for American workers and scholarships for American students studying math and science. These programs will provide the long-term solution to the shortage of information technology workers plaguing our economy.

H.R. 5362 raises the fee to \$1,000. With the new H-1B quota of 195,000, this increased fee could raise almost \$200 million a year for job training and scholarships.

The bill also exempts primary and secondary schools and universities from having to pay the fee. These institutions are already doing their part to train American students for the jobs of the future.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand the amendment, the fee charged to employers for sponsoring an H-1B worker will double from \$500 to \$1,000. I support the increased fee, because we have a critical need to retrain America's workers and educate our children to meet the demands of the new economy and to better administer and enforce the H-1B program.

In fact, in my view, a larger fee increase may have been appropriate, in light of the urgent need for qualified American high-tech workers, particularly in minority and under-represented communities.

The allocation of the new fee makes the training and education of American workers and America's children a priority. Over half the fees will be used by the Labor Department to provide technical skills training for U.S. workers. Over 35 percent of the fees will go to scholarships for low-income persons and the National Science Foundation competitive grants for K-12 math, technology, and science education.

Now, it is common knowledge that the administration of the H-1B program by the Immigration Service and the Labor Department could be far better than it is. We have increased the funds allocated to each agency so that they can better administer and enforce the programs, as well as reduce the horrendous backlogs in applications currently faced by employers.

We will review the implementation of the H-1B program in the next Congress,

and I fully expect to see improvements in how these agencies handle the H-1B program. In other words, they should be held rather strictly accountable.

Mr. Speaker, because the fee increase will begin to address the needs of the American workforce, I support the bill.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

I would like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues on the Committee on the Judiciary, first, for bringing this up.

This fee increase is one which was struck through an agreement in legislation that my colleague next to whom the gentleman is standing, the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), and I worked, beginning last October.

It is very important for us to recognize that while just 2 days ago we were able to pass legislation which does bring about that increase to 195,000 the number of H-1B visas, it is important for us to realize the long-term solution is to do exactly what my friend from Michigan has said, focus on scholarships for the National Science Foundation, increase math and science education at the K through 12 level, and realize that if we are going to have a workforce that is going to be globally competitive, we must have them trained and educated here in the United States.

Until that time, we have increased the H-1B visa level. We have had a bipartisan agreement to do that. It seems to me that this legislation, which I was very proud to introduce, after we passed the H-1B visa bill, along with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules, is one which we can move immediately.

Again, I would like to compliment my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and others who have worked long and hard on trying to move ahead with the package.

On this issue of education and math and science education, I specifically want to mention the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), who has done a great deal of work focusing on the importance of math and science training.

So I hope we can move ahead just as quickly as possible. Again, I congratulate all those who have been involved in this effort.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from California (Chairman DREIER). The gentleman reminds me that I have been discussing with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) about how, in the next term, if we are fortunate enough to come back to Congress elected by our constituents, that we really begin to work on a larger plan that coordinates all of the efforts that

some employers are engaged in; that the Department of Labor should certainly be working very hard at; that the Department of Education, for example, should be doing more.

□ 1415

But I am still looking for, and I am willing to create with interested Members in the Congress, the omnibus inclusive program that really gets at the problem of the training, which, as we know, has the start in the very first grades. You cannot bring in a technical program for people who have not been prepared for the course studies.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member, as well as the gentleman from California (Chairman DREIER), the Committee on Rules.

I very much believe that this is the right thing to do today. As the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) referenced, this was the fee that was included in the bill here in the House. Because of the glitch, and I cannot argue with the parliamentarian in the other body, it could not be included, because revenue increases can only be instigated in the House and thus this is an essential thing to do. I do agree.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman will yield further?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, that glitch happens to be article 1, section 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for the reminder of the Committee on Judiciary members, the origin of the glitch.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, though, that I think that the issue of H-1Bs is more complicated than training programs; 98 percent of the H-1B visa holders have at least a bachelor's degree, half of them have a master's degree or Ph.D., so I am very much for the job training programs that are included in this. It is important, but it is a different employee group than the H-1B visa holders.

And for that, I am hopeful that we will be able to do additional funding and additional emphasis on math and science education, so that poor children who are in great numbers are not getting to colleges they should be and not getting into the Ph.D. programs as they should be will have that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I would further note that this is about not just shortage but excellence, and we will always want the ability to recruit worldwide. A country that would not want somebody like Linus Torvalds to be in America and want to be one of us is a country that is inexplicable.

So we will always want to be able to do that, but that does not obviate the

need for putting massive effort and attention and additional resources especially into poor schools for poor children. We were losing bright minds. It is an outrage for those families and those kids, but further it is something that this country can no longer afford to do. So I am eager to support this.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member, for yielding to me. I am hopeful that next year we can do much, much more.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mrs. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, continuing on the reservation of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), let me thank the gentleman very much.

Let me acknowledge that there are elements in this UC that I certainly do appreciate. In particular, language taken out of H.R. 4227, the Technology Worker Temporary Relief Act, that has a recognition of the burden on primary and secondary educational institutions with respect to paying the fee.

These are entities that would put teachers into the primary and secondary public schools and, of course, this language came out of our bill. It was language that I drew from the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) in working with our local school districts, so I am very gratified that this lessens the burdens on our local school districts.

In addition, I think it is vital that we increase the fee, because, of course, one of the elements that many of us are concerned about with the H-1B philosophy, if you will, is the training that is necessary for American workers.

What I would say, however, as well, is that I wish we would have captured an opportunity to allow us for a full debate when this particular legislation came to the floor of the House, my reservations are that in that instance, we might have been able to go from 195,000 to 225,000. As the gentleman well knows, the industry said they need millions, but we did not do that.

I think we missed a very valuable opportunity, and I would just like to share with my colleagues just a few brief points on the continuing reservation.

There is nothing in this bill that requires H-1B tech employees to recruit, hire or train minority American workers. African Americans are only 11 percent of the high-tech industry, and they continue to be underemployed. There is nothing that requires H-1B employees to make efforts to continually train and update the existing skills incumbent on American workers and to promote such employees where possible.

There is nothing in the bill that requires the employers to take constructive steps to recruit qualified American workers who are members of underrepresented minority groups, recruit historically black colleges and

universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and advertise jobs to reach out to older and disabled Americans.

There is nothing in this bill that deals with rural communities. Under the leadership of the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), we have been working in our Congressional Black Caucus to deal with these kinds of needy groups. There is nothing in this bill that deals with protecting American workers and ensuring that the salaries are competitive.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the industry and I applaud the idea that jobs in America creates jobs; we know that. But we missed a very valuable opportunity, both in the legislation on Tuesday and as well as in the UC, to be able to respond to those groups who obviously need to be addressed.

Let me conclude, as I continue my reservation, I am gratified that the bill that I sponsored, Kids 2000, is in the legislation that deals with boys and girls club grants, and glad that the DOL will be getting training money. My only angst is that the training money should be directed toward historically black colleges and other institutions to specifically focus on groups that need to be encouraged to participate in this very vital and vibrant industry.

I hope that in working with the administration, this time around, and working next time in the 107th Congress, if we are lucky enough to come back, Mr. Speaker, that we will look to these issues that are very important, that the training dollars will not randomly be sent to the State, but they will be designated to work on these issues that we think are so very important.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) because she had a bill directed at the points that she made; unfortunately, it was unable to be heard in the committee on which she is the ranking member. I think it gives us a direction for where we really must go in the next Congress. This is a good start, but it is only that.

I hope that the gentlewoman will join in the dialogue that I have just begun today with members of the committee to put together an omnibus package that goes way beyond just increasing the fee and passing it on.

We have to have a targeted national program if we are to get these youngsters that we all want to train into the pipeline to be able to get into the technical courses that would make them prepared to go into the high-tech field.

And so I only remind the Members of this, because the gentlewoman has been working tirelessly on this subject ever since she became the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield so I may respond. I look forward to working with the gentleman on this omnibus effort as I think my

colleague who will speak next, and we will continue to work in every direction that we can to really respond to the general need that we have on this very important issue of technology in America.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) for her discussion under our reservation.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for his generosity in yielding the time. I thank him for his leadership, and I thank all of those who are interested in raising the fees so that American workers can have the opportunity for training. I certainly thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) who has provided untireless hours and vigorous leadership on this issue.

I guess part of my reservation is both process and substance. The process is that we did not have an opportunity to have just this kind of dialogue which apparently we agree on when we could have had this opportunity to enhance this bill.

It is not the issue of not increasing it, because we are not anti the opportunity of getting the kind of technological skills in order to make our companies ever profitable and allow it to expand and the growth opportunities there but the uncertainty of the fact that we could not have this honest democratic discussion about how we bring various parts.

I represent rural America, so I bring that bias or that perspective. In rural America, we do not have access to the Internet, nor do we use the Internet in the same proportion, and that is exacerbated, obviously, by the persistent poverty, the sparsity of population, the distance they have to travel.

So we are finding ourselves with acts like this and others further disenfranchising digitally because we do not have the infrastructure, and to allow this opportunity to pass and not to allow American citizens and children and workers in rural America to benefit from this is not to suggest that we should not recruit others. And I agree with my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), we certainly would be very narrow minded if we did not want to get the best minds worldwide.

But should we get the best minds at the expense of the best minds here? Should we indeed not do both? We can achieve both. I want to applaud what the gentleman is doing here, but I do not want the gentleman to think that I think we cannot do better this session. We ought to still stay engaged with the President and still stay engaged with that process to let him know we can perfect this.

The opportunity seems to me that we indeed ought to structure some of these funds so it, indeed, will go to those targeted areas.

My final comment is this, when America saw itself challenged 3 decades ago scientifically and astronomically, when we found ourselves behind the Russians, we made a commitment not just to recruit the Russian scientists here, we made a commitment to invest in our children, in our school. We are not making that kind of commitment.

And for my colleague from California (Mr. DREIER) who remarked this is short term; the gentleman is absolutely right, this is short term. It is short term, and if we keep doing it, it is going to become the most expedient way to do it, because it costs less to do this.

I want to make the plea to my colleague, we have to invest in our communities. We have to invest in our children. We have to invest in our workers. We have to invest in rural America so we can be a Nation that is proficient and enjoying the rising tide of this new economy, and we have to make that kind of effort.

It is not at the exclusion of bringing the best minds. This is not antiimmigration. This is an inclusive way, and it is to suggest that the information technology people, they understand the value of having a workforce here in America.

It seems to me that we short sighted their vision if we suggest that their only solution is that they must keep recruiting all their talents somewhere else. We did this in auto, and guess what? We found ourselves as American countries having competition all over.

I just want to challenge us, the most important integration bill we had on this House, we missed the opportunity to have this kind of give and take and discussion.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for yielding. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this important topic. I am in agreement with much of what I have heard today, but we have to recognize, as the previous speaker, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), commented, this is a long-term problem. It is also something that I have been involved in since 1967 when I was a physics professor and became very concerned with what was called at that time scientific illiteracy.

□ 1430

It was clear the Nation had a major problem, so I dedicated myself as a professor of physics, first at Berkeley, then at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to trying to eradicate scientific illiteracy in the areas in which I dealt. I taught special courses designed for students who were not scientists, so they would begin to understand science and comprehend it.

That interest has continued, and I agree with the previous speaker, that

this is a long-term problem that we have to address.

I have developed three bills which I introduced this past year. We have over 110 cosponsors of those bills, and I had hoped that we could act on them this year, but due to various circumstances, that did not happen, although one of the bills was reported out of the Committee on Science.

It is essential that we continue this. I have a brochure which I have handed out to many Members, and I will be happy to make available to any other Members.

The key point to recognize, first of all, we have a very serious problem in this country, but we also have a real blessing going on right now. The blessing is the tremendous economic boom we have enjoyed for almost a decade, which, according to Alan Greenspan and many other experts, is grounded entirely in the science and math developments of the recent past.

The research we have done has paid off, but we have not produced the manpower to keep the boom going, so we are forced to import scientifically, technically trained people from other countries. That is why we need the H-1B visas.

But that is a short-term solution. We need to do a better job of educating our citizens in math, science, engineering, technology, from pre-school through graduate school, if we want to continue to be competitive as a nation.

It is absolutely essential that we do that. The best place to start is our weakest link, K through 12 education. For a series of reasons, we are not doing a good job there. Evidence of that, of course, is the H-1B visa problem. Another evidence is that in any graduate school of science and engineering in this country, we will find over half of the students are from other nations. Our students cannot compete with students from other nations.

Another example of this is that we have 365,000 jobs open in this country unfilled because we do not have qualified people to fill those jobs.

So in an attempt to solve that, I have introduced these three bills. I hope next year we can get this through. I hope we will be able to use some of the funding from the H-1B visa fee to propagate this and actually get at and solve the problem.

The previous speaker referred to the effort after the Russians reached space first. I have given a number of speeches entitled, "Where is Sputnik when we need it," because we need another Sputnik now to reenergize our people, to reenergize our Congress, and get this in, address this problem.

It can be addressed, and it is not all that expensive. We simply have to set our minds to it and do it, and do it right, so that we can produce a workforce that is technically trained, scientifically trained, and able to deal with the economy we have now, and keep this economic boom going so that we will all continue to enjoy a better life in the future.

Mr. CONYERS. Continuing my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I did not appropriately thank him for his leadership, and the members of the committee; and also for having the passion and understanding that though this came through the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, it is a Committee on the Judiciary issue, a full committee issue.

I am delighted that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) talked about the reeducating of our youth. The point I wanted to focus on is that this is a continuing effort, this is not a one-time effort, as everyone has said.

But this is a time to speak to my colleagues who would think that it is a narrow issue. The issue should be that we leave, and I have heard this said before, we leave no one behind. Right now, even though we can focus on those K through 12 students which we want to excite about math and science, to project them into the future, let me just remind my colleagues that we do have existing American workers who, with cross-training, what we call incumbent worker training, engineers graduated from historically black colleges or Hispanic-serving institutions or individuals in rural America who are now ready to stand alongside of the immigrant visas we are giving.

It must be said as much as we fought on the issue of helping immigrants, particularly trying to restructure the INS, making things less bureaucratic, we know this is not an attempt to discard the talents that they bring, but it is to recognize that there are existing workers today, Hispanics, African-Americans, people who live in rural communities, people who live in urban communities, who can benefit from the recruitment of the industry that we would like to see, from the collaboration and training in institutions that these individuals could get cross-training in, and as an engineer, be able to write software technology.

That is why I was saddened at the opportunity we missed with this legislation. I am gratified that the fees are raised, so we know we are committed to training; gratified that those public schools that need teachers coming in from foreign countries to teach, because we have a teacher shortage, now do not have to pay the fee; gratified that we have the Kids 2000 technology aspect; but hope that my colleagues, in keeping with the comments of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) about an omnibus approach in the future, that we will be reminded of those underserved, underutilized communities, and underutilized American workers we have.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to take a moment to thank those involved in this bill, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) has worked indefatigably on this issue, as has the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). We appreciate that. Her great leadership on the committee has been helpful.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) has worked very, very hard on these issues. We appreciate his comments, and those of the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), who just spoke eloquently. We appreciate her concerns and leadership on the issue.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us contains technical corrections and clarifications to the H1-B visa legislation which passed the House by voice vote on Wednesday and the Senate 96 to 1. This bill will increase the H1-B visa fee which will be used to train American workers in high tech jobs. It also goes further to protect non-profits affiliated with educational institutions, like teaching hospitals. This training money is a positive step. It is overwhelmingly supported by members in both bodies and on both sides of the aisle. I want to thank my colleague DAVID DREIER for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DREIER and Congressman JOE MOAKLEY for including my bill into the H-1B visa bill. The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 developed a new filing fee which must be paid by employers when they file H-1B petitions for "aliens in specialty occupations" before October 1, 2001. Certain employers are exempt from paying the filing fee, including institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations or a Government research institute, it is my regret that this preferential treatment does not extend to grades K-12. With this in mind, elementary and secondary-level education institutions that qualify as nonprofit organizations under the appropriate sections of the Internal

Revenue Code do not qualify as "institutions of higher education," as defined by the ACWIA, and are thus not exempt.

In response to this confusion, The Department of Labor has identified the need to clarify the definition of exemption provisions as they apply to elementary and secondary-level education institutions. We offered H.R. 1573 to ensure that the same policies and objectives served by the ACWIA be extended to include elementary and secondary-level education providers.

The fee was paid by our public schools from property tax dollars to I.N.S. This bill will save our public schools scarce property tax funds to use for education.

I hope we can pass this legislation that would provide our elementary and secondary schools a chance to hire experts and teachers through the H1-B Visa program and save local tax dollars.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, because I support the bill, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 5362

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITIES RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF FEES.

Section 214(c)(9) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(9)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "(excluding)" and all that follows through "2001)" and inserting "(excluding any employer that is a primary or secondary education institution, an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a), a nonprofit entity related to or affiliated with any such institution, a nonprofit entity which engages in established curriculum-related clinical training of students registered at any such institution, a nonprofit research organization, or a governmental research organization) filing before October 1, 2003"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "\$500" and inserting "\$1000".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by section 1(2) shall apply only to petitions that are filed on or after the date that is two months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5362.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

□

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregon, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4475) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2547. An act to provide for the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued in Part II.